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**The New York Times**  
WEEKLY REVIEW

## FBI: Progress in Olympics blast probe

ATLANTA (Reuter) — US investigators hunting a white American man they suspect holds the key to the Atlanta Olympic Games bombing said yesterday they are pursuing "promising leads" and making good progress.

The bomb, a crude homemade device made more deadly because it was laced with nails and screws, exploded in a packed public park during a rock concert in the early hours of Saturday. A 44-year-old Georgia woman was killed and 111 people were injured in the blast.

"We are looking for a white American man who made a 911 emergency call immediately before the blast," said a police spokesman. The call, from a pay telephone beside the popular

Centennial Park, was made half an hour before the explosion.

Jamie Gorelick, deputy attorney-general in charge of the investigation, said investigators are closely looking at the theory that an American was responsible.

"That is one of the principal theories we are pursuing," she said on NBC-TV's *Meet the Press* when asked if the FBI is looking for a "homegrown terrorist."

Gorelick told CBS TV's *Face the Nation*: "We have very promising leads, but we're not going to be releasing them as we go along."

Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn told the same program the leads were not centered on one person or group. He said the speed at which the 911 call was processed was

also the subject of investigation.

White House chief of staff Leon Panetta said the 900 FBI agents assigned to the case "have a lot of leads."

"They feel like they are making good progress," Panetta told ABC television.

President Bill Clinton yesterday said called for sanctions against Iran, Iraq, Libya and all other countries that promote terrorism.

He invited leaders of Congress to the White House to discuss expanding wiretapping and chemically "tagging" explosives to help crack down on terrorism.

Clinton told a group of disabled veterans he had invited the leaders of Congress "to help to agree on a package that will provide these additional protections against terrorism and any other

measures we need to take to increase the protection of the American people."

British terrorism expert David Capitanchik said the case is beginning to look more like a domestic group opposed to the reelection of Clinton.

"Many of these people on the extreme right of the American political spectrum are very concerned that if Clinton wins the election... this time he will really go for the guns and for these militia groups," he told Sky television.

Israeli experts echoed this view, saying the amateurishness of the bombing suggests it was more likely the work of an angry or frustrated American than international terrorists.

The type of pipe bomb used is a popular weapon with US militias. But one of the main local

militia groups denied it was responsible.

A spokeswoman for the "112th Regiment Militia-at-Large for the Republic of Georgia" told a news conference: "It's so absurd when they say we're doing something like this. This is the last thing we want."

The Olympic park, designed to be the heart and soul of the games and a public passageway between venues, was still closed off and surrounded by yellow police tape yesterday, as forensic experts sifted for clues.

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch said he was impressed by the work of the security forces after the blast.

"We are very grateful to the authorities for their excellent response and for the security

measures they have taken," he told a news conference.

Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell said the swift work of the security forces saved "literally hundreds" of lives.

French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu telephoned Clinton yesterday to express dismay at the Atlanta park bombing, the White House said.

Spokesman David Johnson said Clinton took the calls while flying from Washington to New Orleans aboard Air Force One to address a convention of disabled war veterans.

Chirac and Netanyahu both offered condolences on the blast in Atlanta. They also said they supported Clinton's efforts to fight terrorism and offered whatever help they could provide.



Former president Yitzhak Navon (right) and retired Tel Aviv District Court judge Eliahu Winograd present the Navon Committee's findings at a news conference at Jerusalem's Bible Lands Museum yesterday.

## Navon panel finds fault with MDA, falls short of calling for dismissals

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Navon Committee appointed six months ago to investigate the Ethiopian blood donation affair announced yesterday that there were "many shortcomings in the decision-making process" inside the Health Ministry and Magen David Adom.

But the majority of the committee members did not recommend the dismissal of anyone involved, including MDA blood services director Dr. Amnon Ben-David.

The United Ethiopian Immigrants Organization reacted with rage and disappointment to the report. It declared it would hold an emergency meeting of communal leaders today to demand that the government establish a state inquiry commission into the whole gamut of issues related to the aliyah and absorption of Ethiopian Jewry.

Former president Yitzhak Navon, who chaired the six-member committee, declared at a press conference at Jerusalem's Bible Lands Museum that "no racism was involved" in the official decision to discard blood donated by all Ethiopian immigrants because of the relatively high rate of HIV in the community.

"The [officials] were not evil. They worried about stigmatizing the community," Navon said, "although after the fact, we believe they should have told the immigrants the truth [when they came to donate blood]."

Instead of an across-the-board ban on accepting blood from Ethiopian immigrants, the committee recommended that blood should not be taken from anyone who spent at least six months — during the 10 years before coming to donate blood — in any of 63 countries where AIDS is endemic, including southern Asia and parts of South America, the Caribbean, and Africa.

In addition, blood would not be accepted from anyone who returned during the previous 12 months from an HIV-endemic country: from hemophiliacs, homosexuals, drug addicts, or prostitutes; or from anyone who had sex during the past year with someone who is in one of the above mentioned high-risk groups.

Navon conceded that the largest group that would continue to be affected is Ethiopian immigrants.

For years, the Health Ministry had appealed to the press not to disclose the high rate of HIV carriers among the immigrants.

The committee was appointed in February by then-prime minister Shimon Peres after the disclo-

sure by *Ma'ariv* investigative reporter Ronel Fisher that the immigrants' blood had been destroyed without their being informed by MDA. A few days after publication, there was a tempestuous and somewhat violent Jerusalem demonstration by tens of thousands of Ethiopian immigrants.

The committee had originally included seven members: Navon; retired Tel Aviv District Court judge Eliahu Winograd; Youth Aliyah social worker Natmar Hillel; Ben-Gurion University epidemiologist Prof. Lehaïm Nagan; Hadassah-University Hospital hematologist Prof. Eliezer Rachmilevich; former MK Yehzekel Zakai; and (now Labor MK) Adissu Messele, chairman of the immigrants' organization.

The High Court of Justice ruled that Messele had to resign because he had publicly denigrated Ben-David's firing; the organization's secretary, Shlomo Mula, who briefly replaced Messele, was subsequently forced to step down as well. Rachmilevich, the target of a more recent Fisher investigation, chose not to appear at the press conference.

While Hillel and Zakai blamed Ben-David for "lying" to the

immigrants, the majority of the committee said the blood-dumping policy was conceived in the Health Ministry, and that the MDA blood services director had merely continued a policy that existed when he took office.

Navon said that the most disturbing testimony, aside from the blood controversy, involved the failure of the rabbinate to recognize the Jewishness of the Ethiopian community.

The report was presented first to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who asked the committee what could be done to prevent the spread of AIDS within the community itself. The members urged serious educational efforts among the immigrants to cope with language and cultural problems. This could be implemented by setting up a well-financed interministry team responsible to the Health Ministry.

Convening a second press conference in the museum after the Navon Committee's ended, Messele and Mula charged the committee — "and others outside who wanted to delay the report until public interest waned" — with "foot-dragging." They noted that the commission charged with investigating the murder of

(Continued on Page 2)

## Army lifts closure

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF announced late last night that it was lifting the closure on Judea and Samaria imposed early Friday, following the drive-by attack near Beit Shemesh in which three members of the Munk family were killed.

As of 4 a.m., Palestinian laborers are being allowed to

enter Israel, the army said.

The restrictions had kept tens of thousands of Palestinians from their jobs. The army said the lifting of the closure would bring the situation back to that of July 18, when 25,000 married Palestinian men over 29 had entry permits.

## 'Two generations wiped out in one fell swoop'

Terror victims Uri, Ze'ev Munk buried

YOCHI DREAZEN

HUNDREDS of mourners attended the funerals of terror victims Uri Munk, 53, and his son, Ze'ev, 30, of Moshav Mevo Beitar, yesterday. The two, along with Ze'ev Munk's wife, Rachel, 24, were killed in Friday morning's drive-by shooting near Beit Shemesh. Ze'ev succumbed to his wounds early yesterday morning.

"Two generations wiped out in one fell swoop," said Moshav member Yoav Lit. "Where do you find the strength to bury a son and a father, an entire family, in the same day?"

In sharp contrast to the funerals of Yaron and Effie Unger, killed in a similar attack on June 9, many of the speeches at yesterday's funerals were noticeably political.

"I appeal to Prime Minister [Benjamin] Netanyahu and Internal Security Minister [Avigdor] Kahalani to help us guarantee that these are last sacri-

fices," said Meir Vezel, head of the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council. "Listen to our security plans; we know how to defend ourselves."

MK Ze'ev Boim (Likud), who represented the Knesset at the funeral, said the location of the attack was irrelevant.

"It doesn't matter if this crime took place within the Green Line or outside of it," he said. "Their blood must be avenged."

But the most politically charged — and emotional — words belonged to Rabbi Uri Dasberg, father of the murdered Effie Unger.

"Ze'ev, Rachel, Uri, I didn't know you, but fate has brought us together," he said. "And let me just say that if someone is not doing his job, no matter how short of a time he's had it, it's time for a change."

All Ze'ev's vital organs were donated to the organ bank, and several have already been used in transplants.

## 83-year-old earns BA

AN 83-year-old kibbutznik has completed his BA in Jewish history at Ben-Gurion University and will begin studying for his MA next year.

Ya'acov Vilan, of Kibbutz Negba, traveled to Beersheba three times a week for his studies, never missing a lesson.

He completed his degree with honors and was awarded a full scholarship last year and will also be exempt from tuition next year.

"That is the greatest honor an elderly person can have," he said.

Vilan was the commander of Negba during the War of Independence. (ftm)

## Gov't pledges increase in living standards for settlers

DAVID HARRIS

A NEW approach will be taken in developing the territories which will raise Israel's standard of living in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, said yesterday.

Senior government officials have begun working on a program of far-reaching policy changes that will affect the entire country. Three committees of ministry directors-general met yesterday, and another is scheduled to assemble today to discuss future priorities, speeding up construction work, help to northern confrontation line communities, and developing the Gulf of Eilat.

Speaking to journalists, Lieberman said a new approach would be taken to developing the territories. While refusing to reveal detailed proposals in any of the major policy areas, he pledged to raise the standard of living, improve public services, create employment opportunities, and bring industry to the settlers in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Lieberman pointed out a series of administrative anomalies in the territories which will be reformed. For example, he said, in 1991 a list of settlements was drawn up, with residents receiving considerable incentives to live there, but those in settlements not mentioned have not been entitled to

such help.

With regard to construction, Lieberman said there was a 40 percent slowdown in both the public and private sectors during the last five months of the Labor government; this has led to a considerable reduction in availability. The statistics Lieberman presented also show a reduction in work being carried out by the local, regional and national planning authorities.

The plan is to build 60,000 apartments throughout the country, particularly in the central area, during 1997 and '98. However, the government also intends to increase the housing supply in Eilat and the South, a program that's been on hold for 10 years, according to Lieberman.

(Continued on Page 2)



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# Israel rebukes Palestinian Police over peace accords violations

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF rebuked the Palestinian Authority yesterday, warning that every violation of the peace accords will be met with sanctions. This was relayed to the Palestinians by OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir in a meeting with Palestinian commanders.

The meeting came following repeated Palestinian violations of the Oslo accords. The latest occurred yesterday morning, when Palestinian policemen at a Ramallah roadblock opened fire at a Border Police jeep preparing to go out on a joint patrol. No one was injured, though the shots hit the jeep, the army said.

The Palestinians said the shooting was an accident, but Ofir demanded an in-depth investigation.

He stressed to the Palestinian Police representatives he met with after the shooting that the movement of Israelis in Ramallah could not be restricted, and that he would raise the incident in his meeting with his Palestinian counterpart.

"There is a policy of taking a tougher line with all violations now," a military source said. "The army has been instructed by the Defense Ministry to impose sanctions, like declaring sections a closed military area, which hurts the Palestinians economically."



Palestinian and Israeli policemen confer after Palestinian police fired at an Israeli police jeep near Ramallah yesterday. (Khaled Zighari)

wherever there are violations. The territories have been sealed since Friday's deadly ambush

near Beit Shemesh in which three Israelis were killed. Ofir is also believed to have

raised the matter of Abed Salem Hirbawi, a Jerusalem resident who Palestinian security agents

kidnapped and brought to Ramallah. The IDF sealed off the city due to that incident.

# Arafat, in Saudi Arabia, seeks work for Palestinians

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN Authority President Yasser Arafat flew to Saudi Arabia yesterday and was expected to ask King Fahd to allow Palestinian laborers to return to the kingdom to help relieve the economic plight in the West Bank and Gaza.

Arafat was also expected to discuss the peace process, direct financial aid, and his recent meetings with Foreign Minister David Levy, French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, and Syrian President Hafez Assad. But the return of Palestinians to the Gulf was the uppermost issue in Palestinian newspapers.

Al Hayat al-Jadida, a newspaper close to the PA, emphasized quotes from Mustafa Sheikh Dib, the PLO ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who said that Arafat will discuss the effects of the closure with King Fahd and ask that he take in Palestinian workers "to reduce the pressure on the residents of the West Bank and Gaza."

The Gulf states and Saudi Arabia expelled about 300,000 Palestinians after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Although relations between Saudi Arabia and Arafat have improved - this is at least Arafat's third visit since the Gulf War - Palestinian workers have not been invited back.

The Netanyahu government is in favor of easing the closure, but

last Thursday night's terror attack, which killed Rachel, Ze'ev, and Uri Munk near Beit Shemesh - attributed to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - pushed back the prospect of a significant increase in the number of Palestinians being allowed to work in Israel soon.

Without economic prosperity, the Oslo peace process is "doomed," said MK Ephraim Sneh, a declared candidate for the Labor Party leadership. Sneh met with Arafat in Gaza yesterday, the first ex-minister to do so since the elections. Sneh said that the peace process requires joint combat against terror, economic prosperity in the PA territories and no expansion of settlements.

Arafat gave a militant speech on Saturday at Al-Azhar University, affirming that Jerusalem would be "forever the capital of an independent Palestinian state" and counting slain bomb-maker Yihya Ayyash, responsible for several bus explosions, as the latest Palestinian martyr.

Sneh told Arafat that comments like that "could make Israelis despair about peace."

WAPA, the PLO news agency, quoted Arafat on the Beit Shemesh attack as saying: "We should move carefully and with awareness to confront such behavior."

# Nofech-Mozes testifies in wiretapping case

MIRIAM Nofech-Mozes, a director and main shareholder of Yedioth Aharonot, was summoned to give evidence in the media wiretapping case yesterday, after recent developments which led to the questioning last week of the daily's publisher, shareholders, and senior personnel.

Comptroller Yinon Angel was also called to give evidence. Yedioth security officer Haim Rosenberg, under house arrest, also was summoned for further questioning for alleged wiretapping, suborning witnesses, and disrupting a police investigation.

The media wiretapping case broke when police discovered a bug on Nofech-Mozes's phone. Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrodi has been charged with commissioning the tap.

Last week, Yedioth publisher Arnon Mozes was questioned several times under caution for his alleged involvement in wiretapping rival family members, whom he is battling with in court.

A senior police source said that police are also probing whether Mozes was behind the commissioning of wiretaps, via interme-

## BACKGROUND RAINIE MARCUS

diaries, on businessmen and Ma'ariv personnel.

Although police have had hearsay evidence for more than a year that Yedioth may have been involved in commissioning illegal wiretapping, the turning point occurred when private investigator Ze'ev Laufer, awaiting trial on 14 charges of wiretapping, decided to cooperate with investigators.

Evidence given by Ya'acov Tsur, who turned state's witness against Nimrodi and others linked Laufer with Yedioth. Tsur told police that he and his former partner, Rafi Friedan, carried out wiretapping on behalf of Laufer, who he believed was employed by Yedioth.

At the time, Mozes and Rosenberg were questioned, but since no concrete evidence was available, inquiries were postponed and not pursued openly. Over the last month, however, police launched an undercover investigation.

Police arrested Rosenberg last

week, and are trying to discover if Mozes ordered the alleged offenses and how Laufer was paid.

Laufer was charged with tapping the phone and fax of Ze'ev Mozes, whom Arnon Mozes is trying to oust from the daily. Tsur and Friedan allegedly carried out the bugging, and the tapes were transferred to Laufer, who is also charged with bugging Ze'ev Mozes's lawyers.

He was also charged with bugging the phone of Ya'acov Kedmi, Ma'ariv's former marketing manager, with the help of Tsur and Friedan.

The pair reported the bugging of Kedmi's phone to Ofer Nimrodi and his security officer David Ronen, who decided to leave the bug in place to provide disinformation to "the enemy."

Police were told that Yedioth was allegedly behind the bug on Kedmi.

With Laufer's cooperation, police are reportedly acting on more concrete evidence. It is still not known exactly what deal Laufer reached with the district attorney and police for his cooperation and possible testimony.

# Army beefs up Jordan Valley force

REELING from the deadly ambush of a Jordan Valley border patrol, the IDF has reportedly reinforced the area with regular soldiers and has started retraining reservists in shooting, charging, and throwing grenades.

The regulars are from the IDF's mechanized brigade and have been in place "in the past few weeks," Army Radio said. They have been assigned the sensitive points along the border.

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The report said the soldiers were transferred from action in Judea and Samaria due to the faulty reaction of the reservists during the June 26 ambush.

Gunmen crossing over from Jordan opened fire on an IDF patrol, killing three soldiers and then stole the vehicle's heavy machine gun as two other soldiers fled without firing a shot.

An IDF inquiry into the attack

found that a second patrol, which arrived much later, also failed to engage the enemy or pursue them. The brigade commander was dismissed.

According to the new orders, a larger force will now respond to any incident, Army Radio said. IDF engineers have also cut down the brush along the Jordan River's banks to give troops a broader view. The IDF Spokesman declined to comment on the report.

## NAVON

(Continued from Page 1) Yitzhak Rabin "took less than six months."

The two demanded that Ben-David (who is currently on a visit to Russia and could not be reached for comment) be fired immediately. They added that the eruption of the scandal led to the stigmatization of the immigrants, even to fears by kindergarten teachers to bandage the cuts of Ethiopian children or of other pupils to sit next to them.

"We do not want to endanger public health, but all of our HIV carriers are known - unlike those in the rest of the population," Messel said. "We object to the all-encompassing ban on accepting our blood, which it is a privilege for us to donate like everyone else."

The immigrants' organization will launch a "class action suit" against the government and MDA for refusing to accept their blood, he added.

They said they regretted the fact that violence broke out at the January demonstration and would do all they could to prevent a recurrence, if additional protests are called, but added: "If this does happen, the government will be responsible."

No comment was available from the Health Ministry.

## NEWS

# Israel compensates Palestinian family NIS 25,000 for infant's death

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE Defense Ministry has reportedly paid NIS 25,000 in compensation to a Palestinian family who sued Israel for the death of their one-month-old infant, whose ambulance was held up at a checkpoint during the closure imposed after the wave of suicide bombings.

"We reached a settlement and

paid them the amount which they deserved," said a Defense Ministry spokeswoman.

She declined to say how much the family was compensated. But Palestinian sources told the Associated Press the sum was NIS 25,000.

The case involved the family of Shaker Shawahneh, who doctors said died at Tulikarm Hospital on March 9 after Israeli soldiers kept the ambulance carrying him waiting for over an hour and a half. They said the boy, suffering from pneumonia, died of hypothermia

and could have been saved had he arrived earlier.

The IDF Spokesman said at the time that an inquiry found no link between the boy's death and the delay, which it claimed was only 30 minutes. Still, it reprimanded an officer who was at the roadblock for "insufficient sensitivity" in dealing with the situation.

# Jakobovits calls for division of Jerusalem

DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON

FORMER British chief rabbi Lord Jakobovits yesterday accused Israelis of living in "cloud-cuckoo-land" and advocated a functional division of Jerusalem, "if it were to lead to a genuine peace."

"Let the Palestinians fly their flag in the parts which they already occupy," he told the Sunday Telegraph. "It wouldn't mean shifting a single person from one area to another. There would be a relationship between the two authorities, but they would have their own mayor."

"Giving freedom to people and recognizing their national aspirations is a Jewish ideal."

Jakobovits also supported returning the Golan Heights to Syria. "Just as I can see no

reason why there cannot be a Palestinian enclave within Jerusalem, if it were to lead to a genuine peace, I see no reason why there should not be autonomous Jewish settlements in the Golan Heights under Syrian sovereignty."

The president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Eldrad Tabachnik, appeared to support Jakobovits.

"We should pursue every possible avenue, subject to guaranteed security, to secure peace, even at some territorial cost. I would go further and say Israel would be much more Jewish if it did not have to rule over two mil-

lion Arabs."

However, anti-Jewish parliamentarian John Marshall, chairman of the British-Israel Parliamentary Group, said the proposal would place parts of Jerusalem under the control of "an alien organization," and declared that "many will disagree, with sadness, with Lord Jakobovits."

Jakobovits, 75, was widely regarded as the spiritual mentor of former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, who knighted him and later elevated him to the peerage.

He aroused controversy in the 1980s when he called for territorial concessions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, prompting former Ashkenazi chief rabbi Shlomo Goren to appeal to British Jews to "spew him out."

## POLICY

(Continued from Page 1)

The government also is promising large-scale financial help to communities along the northern confrontation line. That commitment is being made to both Jewish and Arab settlements. Four Arab villages have already been pinpointed for aid - Arrabe, Fassuta, Ghajar, and Ma'yilya.

"Everything that Jewish settlements receive, they'll receive," Lieberman said. "We see ourselves as the government of everybody."

In more general terms, he said the government has every intention of improving the infrastructure in Arab areas, making partic-

ular mention of drainage and sewers.

The committee examining the development of Eilat has been charged with speeding up improvements to its transportation links with the rest of the country and internationally.

Among the proposals being considered is a train. No route was mentioned, but existing Treasury and Foreign Ministry proposals include plans for railway lines to Beersheba and into Jordan.

No timetable has been set for relocating and expanding Eilat airport to a proposed site some 10 km. north of town.

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The Jewish Agency for Israel The World Zionist Organization  
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**Halm Zohar**  
 on the death of his mother  
**TEHILAH ZOHAR**  
 and offer condolences to the family.  
 Avraham Burg, Chairman, The Jewish Agency  
 The Directorate and Staff

On the Shloshim for  
**DAVID BLUMBERG**  
 We will meet at Herzliya Cemetery  
 on July 31, at 6 p.m.  
 The Family

Handwritten text: אברהם בורג







# Bomb explodes in Kashmir, killing six

ANANTNAG, India (AP) — A bomb kept inside a motorscooter exploded near the headquarters of a Moslem rebel group in Kashmir, killing six people and wounding 17 others, police and witnesses said yesterday.

So powerful was the blast that 26 houses in the neighborhood were damaged, said Ghulam Ahmed Bhatt, a police official in Sarnal where the explosion occurred Saturday evening.

Elsewhere in the northern state, where Moslem separatists are battling Indian troops for independence, 17 people were killed in the past 24 hours, the government said in a statement.

"The bomb was real powerful," said Bhatt. "It was so powerful that 26 homes in the area were damaged."

Bhatt declined to give details of the incident, saying it may hamper investigation, but another police official, speaking on condition of

anonymity, said the office of the rebel group was the target of the bomb.

"We understand that two people came in an auto rickshaw and wanted to park the vehicle near the gate of the rebel group's headquarters," the officer said. A gunman posted at the gate told the men to drive out. When they showed reluctance, he fired at the vehicle from his AK-47 rifle, he said.

Some of the bullets hit the gasoline tank and that set off a fire and the bomb that was inside the vehicle.

"The auto rickshaw became a fireball and I felt as if there is an earthquake," said Mohammed Alam, a witness who escaped with minor injuries. "There was nothing left but a big hole." Alam, who was walking past the area, said.

Anantnag is 55 kilometers north of Srinagar.

Elsewhere in Kashmir, 12 rebels and five civilians were killed in various other incidents, the government said.

Ten rebels were killed in Kurali Parey village in Baramullah district, about 60 kilometers north of capital Srinagar, when Indian troops fired at them after being fired at yesterday, said a government statement. The other fatalities occurred in four other incidents.

Kashmir is the only state in India with a Moslem majority. In the rest of India, Hindus account for 82 percent of the 930 million population.

A dozen militant outfits have been fighting Indian soldiers to make Kashmir break away from India since 1989. Some want Kashmir to become independent, while others want it to join with Pakistan, India's archenemy. More than 14,500 people have been killed since the insurrection.



Russian sailors rest on top of an ammunition case filled with shells that were to be used as fireworks yesterday to mark the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Russian fleet.

# Turkish doctors in battle to save hunger strikers

ISTANBUL (Reuters) — Turkish doctors struggled yesterday to save critically ill leftist prisoners after the end of a two-month "death fast" which has so far claimed 12 lives.

The Turkish government, under strong pressure at home and abroad, partly accepted demands on Saturday from the hunger strikers for better prison conditions.

More than 300 inmates immediately halted their 69-day protest but human rights workers said about 20 lives were still at risk. A

12th inmate died overnight and others were in critical condition, they said.

"Hayati Can died on his way to hospital in Bursa last night — he is the 12th of the hunger strike," a spokesman for the independent Human Rights Association (IHD) said.

About 170 prisoners had been taken to hospital so far and around 20 of them were in critical condition, human rights workers said. Others were being treated in prison.

"There is one, Refik Uenal, for

whom there may be no turning back," an IHD spokeswoman said. She gave no further details.

The state-run Anatolian news agency reported that doctors in the western town of Izmir had managed to revive another inmate, Gulen Isik, after her heart stopped beating early yesterday.

Vedat Oz, head of a crisis center set up in the Health Ministry for the hunger strike, told Anatolian that several of the patients suffered damage to internal organs, particularly the brain, and had metabolic problems.

# 'Britain knew Nazis smuggled gold'

LONDON (Reuters) — Recently-released secret documents show the British government knew about transfers to Swiss banks of gold looted by Nazis during World War II, Jewish organizations said yesterday.

Greville Janner, a member of Parliament, chairman of the Holocaust Education Trust and vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, said he would release documents and correspondence from a new investigation into the looted gold.

Jewish organizations have worked for decades to find out what happened to hundreds of tons of gold they allege was taken from Jews by the Nazis before and during the war.

The British government has

long maintained it knew nothing about the transfers.

"The released documents from the US National Archives prove previous denials by the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defense that the British did not know of transfers as false," said a spokesman for the Holocaust trust.

In May, after WJC examination of declassified US government documents, the Swiss Bankers Association broke a long tradition of secrecy over the wartime role of member banks.

It said an independent commission could investigate the use of the banks in neutral Switzerland by Germany.

The Holocaust Education Trust said a letter was sent in 1942 by

the British Embassy in Washington to the US Treasury giving details of movement of gold from Nazi Germany to Switzerland.

It also referred to a five-page document, dated February 1946 and written by the US, British and French governments, estimating looted Nazi gold at \$400 million.

The Foreign Office said it was checking the allegations.

"Mr. Janner wrote to the Foreign Office a little while ago about these matters," a spokeswoman said. "We made inquiries and replied saying we were unable to find any information. In the light of his most recent letter, received on Friday, we are making further inquiries."

# TWA probe focusing on front of aircraft

SMITHTOWN, N.Y. (Reuters) — Investigators of the TWA Flight 800 catastrophe yesterday examined the relative positions of key pieces of the plane on the ocean floor, looking for clues to the flight's final moments.

National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Robert Francis said a major debris field containing parts of the aircraft's front section was two kms to the southwest of a debris field containing middle and rear sections of the jet.

The plane was traveling to the northeast when it exploded in a ball of fire on July 17, killing all 230 on board. "I guess it's fair to say that things that come off first tend to be an indicator of what happened," he said.

Francis declined to answer when asked whether the find was an indication that the explosion occurred in the front of the aircraft, as some news reports have said. He reiterated that investigators were unable to conclude whether the crash was caused by a bomb, a missile or by mechanical failure.

The southwestern debris field contained the front landing gear and parts of first-class and business-class passenger compartments, as well as the staircase that leads to the Boeing 747's upper deck.

Navy divers on Saturday recovered the leading edge of the right wing, Francis said.

Asked if divers had found the cockpit, Francis said: "No." Al Dickinson, another NTSB investigator, said videotape footage of those forward areas showed no signs yet of the cockpit.

"As far as instrumentation or the cockpit area, it does not reveal any of that," Dickinson said.

Said Francis: "We do know that's a forward part of the fuselage. Whether that includes the cockpit, we can't tell. There's a lot of wreckage there and it's just going to have to be analyzed."

Francis and the others stressed that recovery of the victims was the top priority, and noted that although two more minor incidents involving the divers' safety occurred overnight on Saturday, water conditions were improving.

Divers had recovered 150 bodies as of midday yesterday, and 146 of those have been identified.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Russian aircraft strike at Chechen rebels**  
GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian warplanes delivered several strikes against Chechen rebel positions in the southeast of the breakaway republic following a lull in air activities caused by rain and fog, the military said yesterday.

The attacks, all carried out over the last 24 hours, targeted unspecified rebel headquarters and firing positions, while populated areas were not hit, the military command said. Previous Russian air raids often have hit Chechen villages, causing civilian casualties.

There was no immediate comment from the rebel side.

Three Russian soldiers were killed and five Moscow-backed Chechen police officers were wounded since Saturday in 11 clashes with the separatists, of them four in the capital Grozny, the military command reported.

**Bomb found on railway tracks in Smolensk**  
MOSCOW (AP) — A bomb was found on railway tracks near a western Russian town, the fourth explosive device planted since a Chechen guerrilla leader threatened to wage "rail war" against Russia, officials said yesterday.

On Thursday, a bomb exploded on an Astrakhan-Volgograd passenger train soon after its arrival in Volgograd. The train was empty at the time of the explosion, which damaged one car.

A day later, police found and safely detonated another bomb in Astrakhan.

These attacks followed threats from a man claiming to be Chechen guerrilla leader Salman Raduyev, who earlier this week announced plans to bomb Russian railway stations, saying he viewed them as military facilities.

**Eight die in Iran border fighting**  
NICOSIA (Reuters) — Iranian shelling has killed eight people in a clash on the border with Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, the Iranian news agency IRNA said yesterday.

It quoted an Islamic Revolution Guard Corps commander in the Iranian border town of Sardasht as saying that the eight were "outlaw aggressors." Several people were injured, IRNA said in the report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

IRNA said in an earlier report that Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) military units crossed the Iran-Iraq border and "attacked several border villages" yesterday in western Iran.

**Indonesian police break up fresh protests**  
JAKARTA, Indonesia (Reuters) — Indonesian authorities clamped down on protests in Jakarta yesterday, a day after the worst rioting in the city in more than two decades, with police using tear gas and cane charges to break up demonstrators.

Riot police beat and chased away demonstrators at two places in the city, leaving several bleeding and taking more than 20 people into custody, witnesses said.

But the violence was at a far lower scale than on Saturday, when thousands of people went on the rampage after police stormed and took over the headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), evicting activists barricaded within.

# Burundi ruler: No more Hutu refugee expulsions

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (Reuters) — Burundi's new military ruler, Major Pierre Buyoya, said yesterday that he was halting forced expulsions of Rwandan Hutu refugees in a move apparently aimed at defusing international criticism of his takeover of power in a coup.

Buyoya, a Tutsi, said his government would not force Rwandan Hutus to go back to the homeland

which they had fled in fear of retribution for the mass killings of Rwandan Tutsis by Hutus in 1994.

An army operation last week, launched before Thursday's coup, in which 15,000 Hutus were sent back to Rwanda from northern Burundi was roundly condemned.

More than 70,000 Hutus remain in camps in the north.

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We'll stay in first-class or quality tourist hotels, travel in air-conditioned buses, be accompanied by a full-time English-speaking guide from Geographical Tours in Israel, and a local guide where necessary. The price includes all this plus the round-trip flight, half board accommodations (breakfast and evening meal) and admission to all sites. No Shabbat travel. Vegetarian menu available.

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# Plot is a Hal of mirrors

FILM REVIEW  
ADINA HOFFMAN

## FLIRT

\*\*\*

Written and directed by Hal Hartley. Hebrew title: *Flirt*. 85 minutes. English, German and Japanese dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.

With Bill Sage, Parker Posey, Martin Donovan, Dwight Ewell, Eliza Lowensohn, Miho Nikaido and Hal Hartley.

SINCE 1988, when he directed his first full-length feature, *The Unbelievable Truth*, American independent filmmaker Hal Hartley has acquired a small but devoted following, and rightly so. Hartley's comically dissociated view of the Long Island suburbs (and in *Amateur*, of New York City) is singular, crisp and playful, and his quietly honed brand of verbal and visual stylization come as a relief both from the assembly-line movies of Hollywood and the violently derivative genre flicks cranked out by so many young film-school grads and Tarantino wannabes.

Hartley is, in other words, still engaged in the admirable, and these days (in the US) almost unheard-of task of trying to make his films new — attempting with each of his pictures to gently surprise his audience and himself and to expand the possibilities of what a script and characters can do. For his exploratory gusto alone, the director deserves high praise.

The inevitable drawback of genuine experimentation, of course, is that by definition it isn't guaranteed to "work." In the case of *Flirt*, for example, Hartley has made a game attempt to replace traditional narrative form with a kind of fictional fugue, but the results are questionable. After a promising start, the movie devolves into a self-conscious intellectual exercise. This is not to say that *Flirt* should be dismissed out of hand as failures go, it's interesting.

The film opens in New York City, in 1993, with the words "I feel disgusting," spoken by a pretty young nude (Parker Posey) who lies in bed and demands to know from her lover, Bill (Bill Sage), if they have a future together. In a few hours, she'll catch a plane for Paris where another boyfriend awaits her, and before she leaves she wants to know if she should hold out hope for a relationship with Bill.

In the same clipped, slightly elevated register favored by all of Hartley's people, Bill tells her that he can't answer right now but that he'll go get a car and drive her to the airport. Instead, he walks down the block to a telephone booth where he calls another woman.

Margaret, and demands to know if they have a future together, if he should hold out hope for a relationship with her.

It's fairly pointless to recount the rest of the story — which is intentionally so spare and generic that it borders on the banal. Even in these early scenes, Hartley fiddles with the idea of so-called universal themes like love, commitment, ambivalence, passion, and obviously flirtation. By letting the characters echo each others' lines exactly, though, he works a gleefully absurdist twist on the romantic notion of lovers who share a "common language." Not only do these people share a common language, they're damned to speak these words and these words alone, and in a way it renders true communication impossible.

But this, it turns out, is just the beginning of the joke. When the first section ends, the film shifts to Germany, in 1994, and to a strangely familiar conversation between a middle-aged German homosexual (Geno Lechner) who demands to know of his young African-American lover (Dwight Ewell) if they have a future together. He has a plane to catch in a few hours and... well, you get the picture. The story proceeds, with the identical situation and exact same dialogue as the New York section. There are variations in setting, gender, race, language (that is, German instead of English), the actors' blocking and inflections, but basically the script and the slightly detached, ironic air and they shift only slightly in the third and final section, set and shot in Tokyo in 1995. This time the story of the character who must know his lover's intentions before he catches a plane, etc., features Hartley himself as the traveler, a film director finishing a movie in Japan, and a shy-eyed dancer, played by Miho Nikaido, whose recent off-screen marriage to Hartley sounds almost scripted, the final halloooo in this odd echo chamber of a movie.

Hartley was brave to think he could repeat the same story three times, word for word, and still keep us interested. He was also mistaken. It's a preening and self-absorbed device that requires us to forfeit all interest in more conventional forms of suspense (not just in terms of plot, but also dialogue: as a question is posed, we already know what the answer will be, even in Japanese). We're asked instead to turn our attentions to the subtle adjustments in the director's technique, his ability to minutely vary the emotional pitch of each new version. It might be effective in serial music, has a lot in common with the ubiquitous Big Mac.



Director Hal Hartley puts the same dialogue into many mouths.

The conceit just might have worked had Hartley genuinely imagined the story anew each time and treated less superficially the shifts in place, race, culture and language. Instead, the panels of the triptych operate redundantly, as the same scene repeated with minor variations by students in an acting class.

Occasionally, a flicker of new

meaning will emerge, but Hartley quickly steps in and returns the action to its preordained track. Instead of widening the relevance of the characters' dilemmas, this generalizing literalism flattens them out and offers a rather frighteningly facetious view of romance in the global village. True love, in Hartley's terms, has a lot in common with the ubiquitous Big Mac.

# Phenomena: Naked came the strangers ...

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

NUDITY is just a costume for *Dancenoise*, a two-member company which "mixes moving, dancing, theatrical images and comic images."

"I'm fascinated by the visual image of a naked woman's body," said Lucy Sexton who, along with partner Anne lobst, will be appearing at the Phenomena performance-art festival in Jerusalem.

"It has to do with images of women, and when we are naked but wearing high heels and a wig and smoking onstage, that becomes quite striking. But really it is all matter of fact to us. It's like: This is the costume we are wearing now. We are always setting the nudity against something very everyday." Sexton said in an interview from her New York apartment.

The duo started out 13 years ago, when the two dancers, just out of Ohio State University, decided to perform together and on the spur of the moment created the name. "We did something that had dance in it and we were interested in music-making."

Dance continues to be central to their work, "but we started per-

forming in nightclubs and that shaped us. We had to be fast and short in order to get people's attention." As their act took shape, it began to involve a lot of dialogue and "it became more mixed with comedy. We started talking with the audience."

The two are always coming up with new material. "The show that we will do in Israel was basically created in the past two months. It is a combination of some material developed in our nightclub shows and some material from our version of Sartre's *No Exit*."

On the road the two usually appear by themselves, but in New York they also do larger presentations, such as a version of Chekhov's *Three Sisters*.

The major change between this new show and previous *Dancenoise* material is the use of music.

"We created, together with Mike Iverson who is with us onstage, some original music for this show. I feel like music is happening all the way through it."

What kind of reaction are the two looking for in an unfamiliar country?

"It would be nice if they enjoy it, we like to entertain. But we are going to take everyone with us on a journey which gets non-linear. We hope they stick with it."

*Dancenoise* also has a political message. "After all, we are reacting to the world and that by itself becomes political. We are reacting to images of women, to advertising images. But it is first and foremost about what happens to us onstage and so it's a little less political than it used to be in the past."

*Dancenoise* occasionally performs in large spaces such as the Lincoln Center or the Brooklyn Academy of Music, but usually it prefers to do its act in nightclubs and other intimate spaces. "We like to feel the audience and see their reaction."

*Dancenoise* performs at the Phenomena Festival in Jerusalem August 3, 4, 6 (10:30 p.m.). On August 6 (6) there is a seminar with the two artists who will discuss their work as well as performance art in New York in general.

# ... while local artist shows 'People Who Lose Pants'

HELEN KAYE

NAT Schen is a night person "because then it's easier to feel like a pipe. Things can come through more easily."

The things are Schen's painting and drawings influenced by and influencing the dozen or so performance art pieces she's done since her first *Pispim* ("Beats") in 1982.

Performance art "is abstract theater, a series of plotless linked images or live visual arts in space and time," Schen explains. "I've heard it defined as time-based art. It's not enough that an audience comes to see my paintings or drawings, because they are past and done. Performance art gives me the immediate link with the audience that I need."

Her latest, a reinvention of an installation she first did in 1985, is *The Performance of Clouds & People Who Lose their Pants* which contains "high- and medium-level clouds, meteorological data and soap operas on monitors, poetry, and healing techniques like *t'ai chi* and bioenergy which we need to survive in the modern world and to enhance the quality of our lives."

Content, Schen says, is a by-product of what the audience sees and understands from her

pieces which "are a collection of images over time that are composed into a structure."

She perches easily on an uncomfortable office chair. Her short hair is fuchsia, pink and blonde. Her nails are silver-speckled blue and she has a Chinese dragon tattooed on her right arm. A sensible big straw hat and kind eyes complement the punk look.

Her own career as a performance artist came "from a gut feeling after I covered a few shows as a reporter for IDF radio." She'd majored in art at the Thelma Yellin Arts High School in Ramat Gan where she'd waffled between theater and painting.

*The Performance of Clouds (& People Who Lose their Pants)* premieres on August 7 at Phenomena, the interdisciplinary puppet and performance arts festival in Jerusalem, August 3 to 8.

During the day, the kids will be able to choose from a bunch of puppet plays including shows from Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy and Holland in and around the Train Theater in the Liberty Bell Garden.

Come evenings, the adult

action moves to the Talpiot industrial area where audiences can see a mix of local and imported performance art/visual theater including the world premiere of Janie Geiser's (US) *Some Velvet Morning* which explores the mythology of the American West.

Geiser is also one of the four judges who will determine the winner of the NIS 20,000 Plus Arts prize which will be awarded to the Israeli artist or group for the most unique interdisciplinary approach to any event in the festival, including the puppet theater.

Winning would be pretty good for the 37-year-old Schen, who hoots at the idea that she makes a living from her art. She teaches part-time at the Art Teachers College and makes props for theaters and TV.

She performs with and directed the nine-member company who "aren't professional actors. The problem with actors is that they already have a very fixed idea of what performance is and so it's difficult to get a pure concept out of them."

The first *Clouds*, she says, "was a five-minute solo, very minor, timid and shy. This one is almost an extravaganza."

# Cupid, draw back your bow-ow-ow: Love blooms at Keshet Eilon

HELEN KAYE

WITH all those bows around, there's little wonder that Cupid felt right at home at Keshet Eilon, the violin master course which combines archery with fiddle playing.

So like everyone else at Kibbutz Eilon, Cupid drew back his bow, striking Evgenia Epstein, 23, and Sergey Ostrovsky, 21.

The two met at the Pessah session in 1993, were a couple by the summer master course that year and were married in 1994. This year, they're going back again to coach with the likes of Shlomo Mintz, Andrea Cappelletti, and Keshet music director Yizhak

Rashovsky. They also will play in a chamber ensemble and perform solo in concerts before their peers.

They revel in all of it, even though performing "puts a lot of pressure on us. The other students' criticisms are very hard, very searching, but we learn a lot," says Ostrovsky, who has just signed a contract to play first violin with the Israel Chamber Orchestra.

Epstein, who freelances with the ICO, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and other local orchestras, says she likes to practice in the kibbutz costume shop, with its racks of gay Purim costumes, "because it's far away and quiet."

Ostrovsky grabs whatever room he's given, and both have scholarships from the America Israel Foundation to attend the master-classes every year.

She was born in Ekaterinburg, attended the local music high school and immigrated to Israel with her parents in October 1990. Her coach at the Tel Aviv Rubin Academy told her about Keshet Eilon, and she attended her first session that Hanukka.

He grew up in Gorky, the only violinist in a family of pianists. He finished the Gorky junior conservatory at age 13 and the Academy's high school at 16, and immigrated

to Israel with his family in 1991.

The notice of his expulsion from the Tel Aviv Rubin Academy — "I talked back" — and his fifth place in Italy's Lipizer Competition came almost the same week.

He was also concertmaster of the Young Philharmonic for two years and Epstein was his deputy last season.

Hearts and flowers aside (and Ostrovsky sent Epstein flowers every day when they were courting), the young couple are typical of the talented string players from around the world who comprise

Keshet Eilon's student body for three weeks every summer.

This year's mastercourse, the seventh, started July 26 and will end with a gala concert on August 8 at Jaffa's Noga Theater. The featured work will be the world premiere of a violin sextet, Opus 52, by Lebanese composer Bashara El Khoury.

Cellists are attending for the first time this year. The students will also play in three chamber ensembles "to accustom them to the styles," says Keshet Eilon administrator Gilad Sheba.

Mintz, who has been involved with the project since the begin-

ning, will give three masterclasses during his 13-day stay, including one called "Everything you ever wanted to ask Shlomo but didn't dare."

That could be a lot of questions, because there are 42 students, 20 of them Israelis.

The rest come from more than a dozen countries including Singapore, Armenia, Korea and Poland.

Of course, it's the archery which makes Keshet Eilon unique among

summer music camps. It takes the same muscles to wield both kinds of bow. String musicians take to archery like kids to ice cream, and the archery practice improves the musicians' coordination and concentration.

This year US Olympic coach Bud Fox will be at the butts set up on the lawn watching with happy incredulity as tomorrow's Perlman, Piatigorsky and Zukermans shoot bulls-eyes after 15 minutes.

# Personal assistants: If the task is menial, it's theirs

CONSTANCE SOMMER  
LOS ANGELES

THE major Hollywood producer and her personal assistant slid into the back of the limousine after another mad shopping spree. This time, the producer had purchased 25 CDs.

"Here," she said, showing the music discs at the assistant — we'll call her Carol — across the darkened cab. "Take off the cellophane."

Personal assistants in Tinseltown: Those who have arrived have them. Those on the way up wish they did.

"She can do the meat of her life, and I'll take care of the rest," said Bonnie Kramer, personal assistant to actress Olympia Dukakis. "She doesn't have to worry about the minutiae."

The job of personal assisting

includes a splash of glamour, mixed with a heavy dose of drudgery and, sometimes, a heaping helping of pride to swallow. Personal assistants see and hear everything — that is, while they dump the trash, pick up the dry cleaning, answer the fan mail and, on occasion, peel the wrappers off compact discs.

Or catch a Lear jet from Las Vegas to Burbank to pick up a fur coat. That's what Robert Ulrich ordered his assistant to do one morning back in 1981, when he was filming the television series *VEGA*.

As the then-assistant, Olivia Barham, remembers it, the scene called for Ulrich to wear a fur coat. But Ulrich didn't want just any fur coat off the rack from the

wardrobe department. He wanted his own wrap — the one at home in suburban Los Angeles.

So Barham spent the next three hours retrieving the said coat, aided by numerous limousines and a Lear jet that waited at the Burbank Airport while she sped out to Ulrich's Sherman Oaks home.

"I thought, this is so trippy," said Barham, who now works for *Star Trek's* LeVar Burton. "I'm 22 years old and I can't believe I'm spending \$10,000 to pick up a fur coat."

Personal assistants say the money flying out of every window can be heady, but it's rarely theirs.

According to the Association of Celebrity Personal Assistants, salaries average about \$800 a week and out of that, many pay for their own health-care benefits.

So the quality of the job depends largely on the personality of the

employer.

Carol — who asked that her real name not be used — quit after only six months, sick of chasing to Beverly Hills to procure the finicky producer's favorite snack. (AP)

# Entertainment, both live and liquid

FORGET the Oktoberfest in Munich. We have an Augustfest in Ashkelon, complete with beer. It's called Briza and although it features all 23 varieties of Carlsberg and Tuborg beers, the festival has drafted big-name performers to draw in the crowds, August 10 to 16.

Yehuda Poliker and Arcadi Duchin will appear on opening night, with Poliker presenting the show of his hit disc, *The Child In You*. On August 12, Jose Feliciano and David Broza will sing together and solo. Last but not least, for those who missed Shlomo Arzi at Tzema, the singer will reprise his show *Two* on August 15.

They'll appear in the 9,000-seat amphitheater at the Ashkelon Park. Tickets cost NIS 60 to NIS 99, but for those who lack the means, there are plenty of free shows by groups from Turkey, Greece and Italy. They'll appear every night on one of two stages at either end of "Beer Alley," the broad avenue where the beer, and food, stands will be set up.

Festival spokesman Tzvika Shafir stressed that beer will not be sold to minors, and that identification will be required if there is doubt about a customer's age.

Furthermore, written security regulations are in effect, supervised by Ashkelon police. *Helen Kaye*

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## American injustice

President Bill Clinton's decision on Friday to reject Jonathan Pollard's appeal for clemency was a poorly-timed and ill-advised act which raises serious questions not only about the American system of justice, but also about the American president and his relationship with the Jewish community.

On the surface, the Pollard case would appear to be open and shut. While serving as a US naval intelligence analyst, Pollard passed along classified information to Israel. He was captured after being turned away by the Israeli Embassy in Washington, convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Given the vast amount of material that Pollard reportedly gave his handlers, as well as its sensitive nature, one could be forgiven for assuming that justice was served in this instance. Yet, even a cursory examination of the circumstances surrounding the case reveals that Pollard has fallen victim to what can only be described as an act of arbitrary injustice.

In receiving a life sentence, Pollard was punished far more harshly than others caught spying for friendly nations by American officials. In the past 12 years, 11 such men and women have been convicted in the US for spying. Most received sentences ranging from two to four years. Only Steven Salas, convicted and sentenced to 14 years in 1993 for spying for Greece, received more than 10 years in prison. Since both Israel and Greece are close allies of the US, it is inexplicable that Pollard was singled out for such a harsh sentence, while others received relative leniency.

Indeed, at no time in American history has anyone convicted of spying for a friendly nation received a life sentence. Pollard's life sentence is the equivalent of that which was given to Aldrich Ames, the central figure in one of the worst cases of treason in American history. Ames, who was a senior CIA officer, passed along information to the Soviet Union for years, right under the noses of his superiors. He exposed American agents in the USSR, leading to the capture and execution of at least 10 people, and significantly weakened the ability of the US to gather information against its Cold War rival. By contrast, Pollard spied for a US ally and is not known to have caused any direct harm to US agents. It defies both explanation and justice that a similar sentence would be meted out to these two men.

Adding to the sense of unfairness is the fact that Pollard agreed to plead guilty and waive a trial in exchange for a promise from the US Justice Department that it would ask for no

more than "a substantial sentence," it being understood that Pollard would not receive life in prison. In effect, the government ignored the terms of the deal and sent Pollard away for life. Moreover, as American columnist Sidney Zion has pointed out, Pollard's sentence was based largely on disinformation spread by Ames, who tried to cover his own tracks by laying the blame on Pollard for the capture of US agents in the USSR. Even now that the truth has come out, the US intelligence community refuses to admit its error, and Pollard languishes in prison as a result.

That Clinton chose to ignore the circumstances of Pollard's case is troubling, though not surprising. President George Bush also rejected Pollard's plea. But the manner in which Clinton chose to publicize his rejection of the appeal is worrisome. While his spokesman was making the announcement to reporters, Clinton was meeting separately with American Jewish leaders, whom he failed to inform about the decision. Seymour Reich, head of the American Zionist Movement, even asked Clinton directly about Pollard, but failed to receive an answer.

This is the second time that Clinton has rejected an appeal from Pollard, and in both instances, the rejection coincided with Clinton's meetings with representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. It is hard not to view such a pattern of events as nothing less than a slap in the face.

Though Clinton has been one of Israel's warmest and closest friends in the White House, he would do well to rethink the manner in which the Pollard issue has been handled. The facts that Clinton maintains a 17-point lead over presidential challenger Bob Dole, and that most American Jews are likely to support him in any event, do not mitigate the dire need to bring this sad story to an end.

In explaining his rejection of Pollard's appeal, Clinton said that to shorten his sentence would be unwarranted and that it would undermine the goal of deterring others from committing similar acts. Such logic is flimsy at best, as the circumstances clearly indicate. The singling out of Pollard to serve as an example, while others receive a slap on the wrist, is ethically indefensible and judicially reprehensible. It behooves Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to continue to pressure the United States on this subject. For over 10 years, Pollard has sat in jail, having spent more than half that time in solitary confinement. Pollard did the crime, and he has done the time. And now, he should be set free.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ALSO GUILTY

Sir, — The epidemic of fatal traffic accidents on Israel's roads is one of the most talked-about issues, but very little is being done about it. In the past year, many heavy trucks were involved in fatal accidents and the drivers in many cases were either unqualified for the vehicles they were driving or had been forced by their employers to work hours beyond safe driving.

The description of the accident in your issue of July 17 is typical. A contractor, S. Barashi, anxious to make the maximum amount of money by using the cheapest labor possible, smuggles in an Arab worker who has no permit to work in Israel and has no valid driving license for the heavy vehicle he then has him drive. In effect, he has handed a deadly weapon to an unqualified person and ordered him to use it. This contractor is thus guilty of all the very least manslaughter of the two women, if not murder, and should be charged accordingly.

In addition, all contractors should have to abide by stringent safety rules set up by the appropriate committee. They should be required to use only qualified workers and pay them union rates as well as full social benefits. Israel cannot continue to base its construction industry on the exploitation of workers.

FRUMIE KASTEN  
Jerusalem.

### MISSPELLING

Sir, — Dr. Koslowe writes a silly letter (July 12) about the many misspellings of his name. I have lived in Israel since 1975, I lived in two other continents before that and not once has my complicated name been misspelled.

It is unfortunate that your correspondent tried to make light of a serious issue: has our prime minister been the victim of inattentive bureaucrats, or has he used aliases, and if so, for what purpose? We have the right to know the answer to this and other questions about his past and it would be easy for him to allay our anxieties, but he hasn't done so.

RAFAEL COSLOVSKY, M.D.  
Rishon LeZion.

### KASHRUT

Sir, — Being an Orthodox Jew, I have had to think twice before attacking a body which looks after my interests. Finally, though, I felt somebody had to say it.

If a catering hall can have its kashrut certificate taken away because at a party someone brought in a belly dancer, surely the moment the offending advertisement was seen, the rabbinic should have taken action.

I therefore believe the question is not "Who the — is Chacko?", but where in the name of heaven are those who are meant to care for the good of our souls? It has been for ages an axiom that kosher food also means a kosher place and surely that also includes how you advertise the establishment.

JOSEPH LUNZER  
Jerusalem.

### DISGRACE

Sir, — I think it is a disgrace that the Olympic Committee has accepted a Palestinian delegation to the Olympic Games. The Olympics are supposedly a politics-free arena, but in this particular case a political statement has deliberately been made — despite being grossly incorrect.

This decision showcases to the whole world that the Palestinians belong to an internationally recognized sovereign state by the name of Palestine. Palestine, to refresh some memories, was in fact a combination of Israel and Jordan, and has by no means been reclaimed or renamed to suit whatever negotiations are currently taking place. Let us remember that to participate in the Olympic Games one must represent a country, not an autonomy or some fake state.

Furthermore, the memory of the slain Israeli sportsmen of the 1972 Munich Olympics, victims of Yasser Arafat's cold-blooded terror, makes it disgusting to see the representatives of this man bearing his face on their uniform badge at the very games that they, in the name of their so-called country, so cruelly defiled.

YOSSI LEVY  
Tel Aviv.

### MYANMAR: LONG-TIME FRIEND OF ISRAEL

Sir, — I refer to your editorial of July 14, "The Lady as a beacon." I always considered your paper to be objective and impartial. Hence I am shocked to read the groundless allegations mentioned in your editorial which smack of the smear campaign of the opposition.

Your editorial quotes the Amnesty International report, Amnesty International in its 1995 report accuses 146 countries, including Israel, of violating human rights in varying degrees. The IDF reply in your issue of June 20 calls that "Amnesty report 'irresponsible,'" with which I agree. Allegations in Amnesty International reports about Myanmar are also one-sided and lack accuracy and perspective.

With regard to the alleged detention of the NLD members, they were not "locked up" as mentioned. They were called in for questioning and sent back home. Don't you think that law-enforcement agencies have the right to prevent lawlessness and disorder? As to thought police, it is sheer absurdity. The whole Western media is filled with opposition views, not the others' voice which is silenced or blacked out by the syndicated media.

Regarding the allegation about the death of James Leander Nichols, he had a history of high blood pressure and heart problems. More than six medical treatments were given to him during the last two months of his incarceration. He did not die in prison nor under unclear circumstances as you said. He died at the Yangon General Hospital of heart failure.

You compare Myanmar with any Middle Eastern terrorist dictatorship or pariah states. Does Myanmar export terrorism or killing squads to other states? Myanmar, as a friend of the State of Israel, has stood by it for more than 40 years since its birth, even in the most difficult times such as 1967, 1973 and in the Gulf war. The Jerusalem Post seems to have a short memory. As to the economic boycott it would be wise to ask the chamber of commerce before you write anything about it.

KYAW ZEYA  
Embassy of the Union of Myanmar  
Tel Aviv.



## 'Fake right, go left'

SPORTS have been called good training for politics. While the implications of that are a bit disturbing, it is a fact that skills picked up on the basketball court or soccer field can be usefully applied to political life.

Take, for example, the injunction to "fake right, go left." We know that right-wing politicians can get away with gestures and actions for which their left-wing counterparts would be pilloried. Thus, the historians tell us that only Richard Nixon could have gone to China and only Menachem Begin could have given up the Sinai. And in previous elections some voters reconciled to the idea of concessions for peace were tantalized by the slogan "Only the Likud can" — though precisely what it was the Likud "could" was left vague enough to avoid alienating its traditional supporters.

Of course, a good fake works in either direction, and the previous government could get away with actions which would be far more damaging to this one. Operation Grapes of Wrath, for example, produced little more than a slap on the wrist from domestic opinion, the international media and the "community of nations" because it was launched by a Labor government demonstrably committed to the peace process; had a Likud government done something even less violent it would have been raked over the coals.

Still, the "fake left, go right" variant of political deviation is less common and far less inspiring, which is why so many observers, analysts, and interested parties have invested so much effort since the elections in trying to understand "the real Bibi."

Political cryptography vacillates between two interpretations. The first, based on the Yitzhak Shamir precedent, is that the premier is a true believer determined to stick

MARK A. HELLER

to his campaign headline themes and positions, and that in his approach to questions of Israeli flexibility, compromise and concessions in the peace process "he can, but he won't." This interpretation prevailed in the media following Netanyahu's visit to the US.

The second, (precedent: Menachem Begin, at least concerning Egypt) is that the premier is a master strategist who really does intend to advance the peace process and used the campaign to

True believer or master strategist? The real Netanyahu must soon emerge

build political capital on which he can draw as he makes the necessary decisions. In short, "he can, and he will."

THIS interpretation is gaining ground in light of the actions taken (and not taken) before and since Netanyahu's meeting with President Mubarak, including easing the closure (reimposed following last week's terror attack), the non-closure of Orient House, and the Levy-Arafat handshake on the Erez lawn.

The Hebron redeployment, albeit with some cosmetic alterations, seems all but a foregone conclusion, and the government has even prevailed upon President Weizman to pardon two Palestinian women convicted of murder so they can be released — imagine the reaction from the right if Shimon Peres had done that. There are also persistent reports of an emerging policy on settlements which implies not

doing less than the previous government, but also not much more. All these developments cause serious apprehension among the prime minister's most hardline constituents, but as long as he uses enough politically-correct rhetoric they will not constrain him because they know they cannot mobilize anything close to a majority against him.

Even if Netanyahu only "goes left" a little bit, initial expectations among the Arabs were so low that any sign of flexibility will be welcomed as evidence that the peace process is not dead, and the opposition will have no choice but to applaud these inadequate but still positive indications of change.

This isn't to say that a decisive verdict on "the real Bibi" can already be given, only that the prime minister, despite criticism from within his own party, is pragmatic enough to have concluded that blind adherence to pre-election slogans is irresponsible and harmful.

But serious challenges lie ahead, including the possibility that disgruntled settlers will try to push the government further and faster than it wants to go; the probability that Bill Clinton will be re-elected, and the certainty that permanent-status negotiations will start once the outstanding business of Oslo 2 is cleared away.

Eventually, pragmatism will not provide much guidance. Either the true believer or master strategist will have to emerge: either then, the prime minister can prosper by standing Teddy Roosevelt's aphorism on his head and continuing to "Talk loudly and carry a small stick."

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

# Drive around

MEIR RONNEN

BETWEEN 1950 and 1967 my reserve unit spent many a long night laying ambushes along the Green Line, to the north, south and west of Jerusalem. These operations didn't stop infiltrators getting into Israel, but they helped.

The Green Line was incredibly long and it required a lot of boots to patrol it. Its only advantage was that you knew exactly where it was supposed to be.

The Green Line has long gone, and with it the comparative sense of security — the fedayeen groups notwithstanding — that it used to afford.

The area around Beit Guvrin and Mevo Betar, always a yawning gap in our security arrangements, seems more insecure than ever, as Friday's ghastly drive-by shooting points up. Little wonder residents of the area are worried. The fedayeen didn't have cars. They had to come and go on foot. And they didn't have automatic assault rifles either, though a few were armed with Swedish sub-machine guns (our weapons weren't any better).

Today's terrorists are theoretically better off. They have a wide range of short and long-range weapons to choose from. But sophisticated weapons are hard to smuggle and hide.

The so-called Haholoh group responsible for the last two drive-by killings must have limited resources, for ballistic tests show that they have been using the same weapon, now linked with three sets of killings.

On the other hand, the murderers have no need of missile launchers. Firing from a car allows closing to point-blank range.

The car itself is a means of instant escape. It can be back in home territory even before our security forces are alerted.

The fedayeen couldn't have driven cars across the border. Roads were permanently cut or blocked off. So the fedayeen came in through wadi beds, well below the skyline.

WHAT WE have to do is make most of the drivable side roads

Send in the bulldozers and make most of the drivable roads into Israel totally impassable

into Israel totally impassable — even if this means making Israeli drivers go a long way around before getting to where they want to go in the territories.

And every other road has to have manned, fully effective road blocks. Only then will Israelis living within what was once the Green Line be reasonably safe from this particular form of murder.

There's time to do it before the closure is lifted again. A bulldozer or ditch digger can finish the job in a few minutes.

Under the best of pie-in-the-sky circumstances, with a real peace agreement, vigilant and effective Palestine police — not to mention thousands of properly deployed Israeli forces — the absence of a Green Line isn't going to be conducive to a hermetically sealed border.

Even during current closures, today's infiltrators, trying to look for work, come daily on foot over the hills. They don't even bother to keep off the skyline. When caught, they are sent back without even a fine.

Nevertheless, these Arab workers, the great majority of them breadwinners who are not active terrorists, whatever their feelings, are less of a threat to our society than the hordes of foreign workers attempting to settle here permanently. At least the Arabs, or most of them, go home at night.

Every time we lift the closure, as lift it we must, we simply have to find a workable solution to the particular problem that caused us to enforce it yet again.

We may never get it totally right. We have no alternative but to go on trying.

The writer is a veteran contributor to The Jerusalem Post.

## POSTSCRIPTS

THAT ODOR wafting out of the UN building is not the scent of another diplomatic scandal — just the pungent smell of "Boutros Boutros Galié."

One hundred bottles of the stuff, marketed by a South African firm in a play on the name of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, went on sale in a prank.

Unlike the UN chief, whose term ends on December 31 and whose re-election hopes are threatened, the garlic carries no expiry date.

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## Get a Job

# The New Contract With America's Poor

By JASON DePARLE

**A**S the movement to repeal welfare boiled across the Senate last week, a noteworthy chart appeared on the chamber floor. Decorated with a sketch of a creeping infant, it advertised a Democratic amendment to provide vouchers to those children — as many as four million — who could be dropped from government rolls if the bill becomes law.

Through an eerie enumeration, the poster specified what the vouchers could buy:

- Clothing.
- Diapers.
- Cribs.
- Medicine.
- School Supplies.

That the Democrats' hopes for the welfare poor has been reduced to a plan to salvage some diapers speaks volumes about the national debate. That the amendment failed says even more.

There's no doubt that the Republican bill, which passed the House and Senate and will be sent to the White House as soon as this week, would "end welfare as we know it." (To quote a certain President, now immersed in his re-election drive.)

The risk is that it may also end poverty as we know it. By making it even worse.

To the public, that may seem unimaginable, so wretched are the nine million children and four million parents who now receive aid, and so discredited is the program that sustains them. But the Republican plan does not "reform" welfare, which is known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children. Technically, it abolishes it.

### It's a Free Market

In its place, it offers laissez-faire hopes that, faced with the consequences of bad luck and poor choices, the needy will somehow shake up. No doubt, some will.

But the weight of the evidence suggests that most either cannot or will not lift themselves from poverty in an economy where, for more than two decades, the bottom has been dropping out for low-skilled workers. In a nation that already has the highest child poverty rates in the industrialized world the poor may indeed get poorer. And more numerous and desperate as well.

Whatever the bill's substantive demerits, it succeeds brilliantly in what may be its



Continued on page 4 Welfare as we know it: a woman with her 7-month-old son filling out an application at a job fair run by the City of Detroit in 1994. Thousands applied for a few hundred jobs.

**The Cuban Connection**  
Why Che Guevara is James Dean's chief rival in Europe.

By Bella Thomas

2

**Language Wars**  
Pushing French and German in an English-speaking world.

By Craig R. Whitney

2

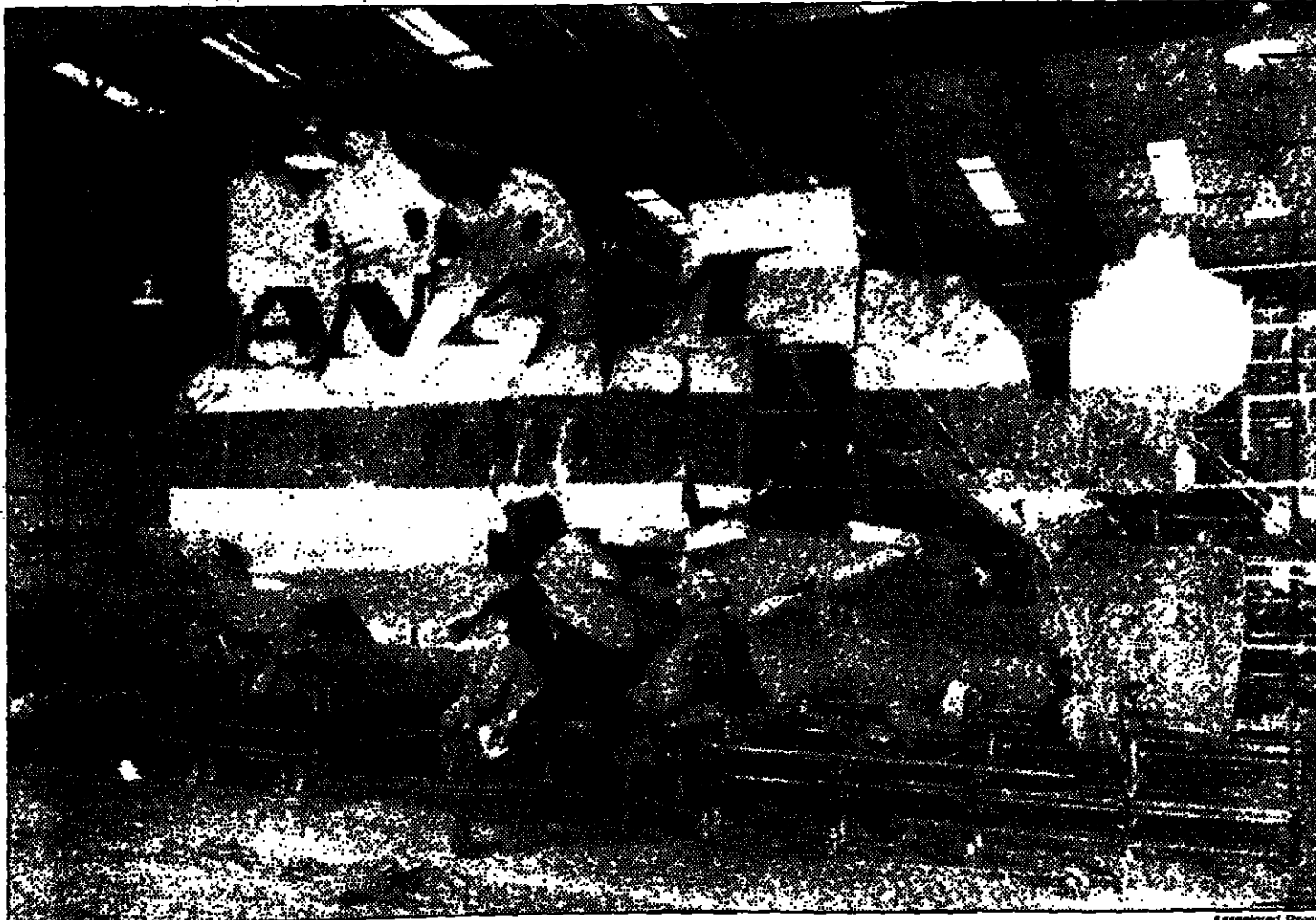
**Abortion Pill**  
RU 486 is more than just taking a pill.

By Gina Kolata

4

### Remembering Pan Am 103

# Off Long Island, Echoes From Lockerbie



Debris from Pan Am Flight 103, recovered in Lockerbie, Scotland, being reassembled in Farnborough, England.

By PETER MARKS

**M**ORNING after morning, they stood shoulder-to-shoulder in their identical dark uniforms, meticulously combing the muddy hillsides for the shredded remains of a jumbo jet.

It seemed, at the time, that the members of the local Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary and the other Scottish police officers and British soldiers who joined in the recovery had an impossible task. Pan Am Flight 103 had disintegrated into an uncountable number of fragments when it exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988, raining pieces as big as the cockpit and as minute as a luggage key over hundreds of square miles.

Much of the debris fell on the old market town of Lockerbie, and in the days after the crash, the townspeople dutifully fished seat belts and broken toys and charred bits of fuselage out of their gardens and stacked them, for collection, at the curb. Bodies, too — 259 in all — tumbled out of the sky and onto rooftops and lawns. In the surrounding countryside, searchers planted small flags next to the tiny impressions made by the bodies that landed in the damp earth.

The view from that hillside, where I stood as a reporter eight years ago, came back vividly last week — even before yesterday's explosion in Atlanta evoked images of yet another form of terror. Compared to the teams now searching for evidence in the crash of T.W.A. Flight 800 off Long Island, the investigators who spent weeks looking for wreckage in the Scottish grass were lucky, at least in the conditions under which they had to look. At Lockerbie, the authorities and recovery experts did not have to contend with punishing waves, poor visibili-

ty, submerged victims and the corrosive effects of sea water on their most important evidence, the broken jetliner itself.

And that, undoubtedly, was an advantage in the investigation of the crash of Pan Am 103. Just seven days after the disaster, the British authorities announced that they had conclusive evidence that the Boeing 747 had been destroyed by a bomb. It has now been more than 10 days since Flight 800 broke apart and fell in flames into the sea, and investigators counted it a major accomplishment last week to have recovered the recorders of in-flight data and conversations, and to have located two of the four engines, even as they kept trying to locate the rest of the 230 victims.

At Lockerbie, forensic scientists quickly established that two parts of the metal frame of the jet's luggage pallet, the structure that contains the baggage in the jet's holds, showed the effects of high explosives. (Metal fragments also were found in some bodies.) Within months, investigators had concluded through the recovery of tiny fragments of electronics that a plastic explosive made from Semtex had been hidden in a radio-cassette player that had, in turn, been hidden in a suitcase.

The combing of the countryside yielded other evidence that led to the indictment in November 1991 of two Libyan intelligence agents in the bombing. The indictment said one had purchased a shirt in Malta, where the luggage containing the radio-cassette player had been put on a flight before being transferred to Pan Am 103. The indictment said a fragment of a timing device was found embedded in that shirt.

In the American psyche as well as the annals of investigations of terror in the air, Pan Am 103 is the forerunner to T.W.A. 800.

Continued on page 3

POSTSCRIPT



# The World

## For Europeans, Cuba Hasn't Lost Its Magic

By BELLA THOMAS

**E**UROPE and the United States are clearly at odds over Cuba. The new Helms-Burton law, which could allow American courts to punish foreign companies that "traffic" in property confiscated from Americans, could yet provoke a serious crisis between America and some of its principal allies. In a sense, the issue isn't so much Cuba as the extent to which one country can force others to comply with its own legislation. But the quarrel reveals something deeper — the different perspectives in which the United States and Europe view Cuba itself.

It is not that Europeans idealize Cuba in a political sense, as was fashionable in the 1960's and 70's. Officials of the European Union in Brussels say that they are keen to promote democracy in Cuba but that they do not believe the embargo has worked or will work. There is a strong case to suggest that it has been counterproductive; it provides Fidel Castro's regime with its strongest underlying rationale.

### Turning the Screw

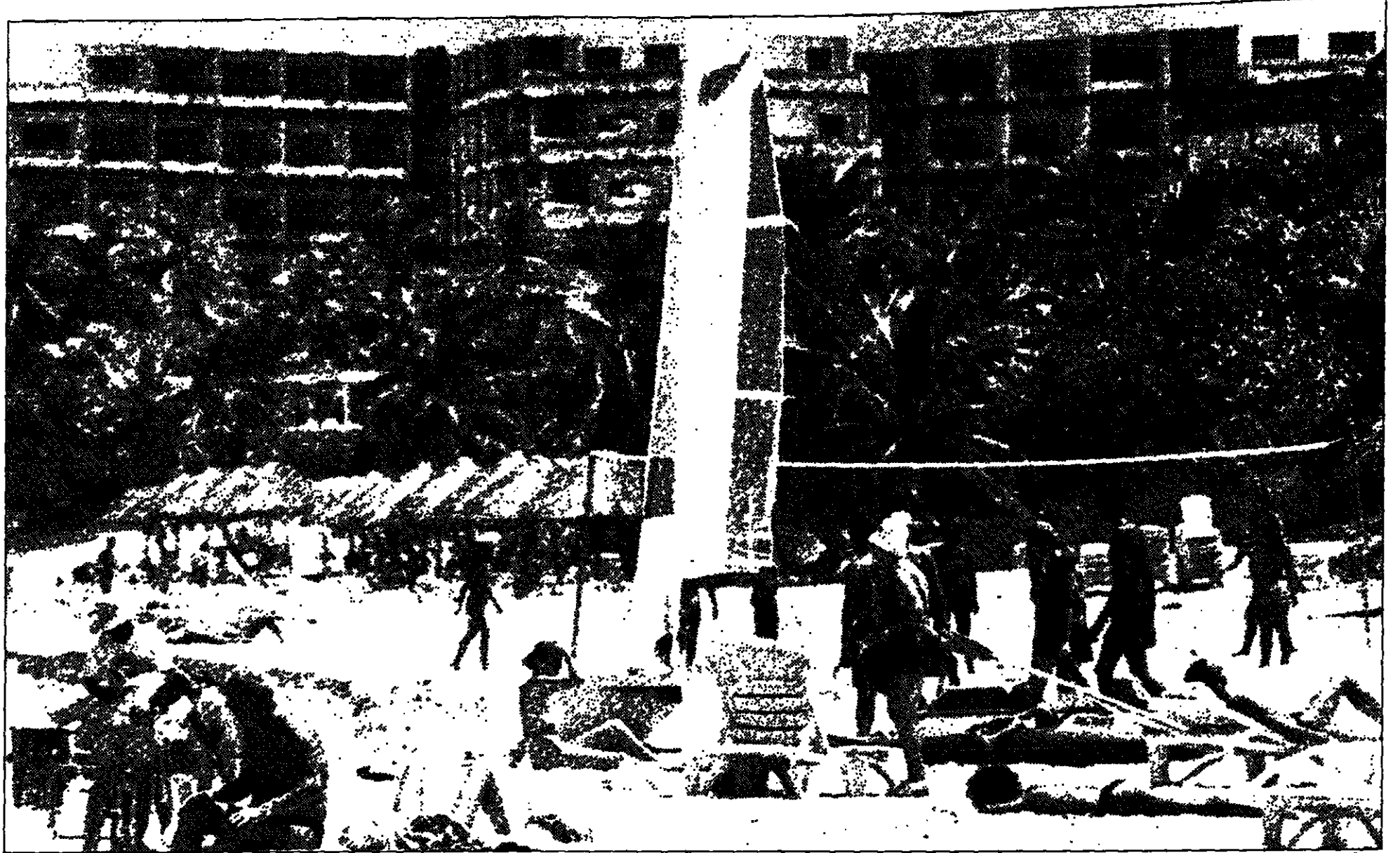
And for good or evil, a nation that has stood up so doggedly to a neighboring superpower moves people on this side of the Atlantic. So the more the Americans turn the screw on Cuba, and try to forbid others to do business there, the greater its allure for the rest of the world. It is the simplest psychology in the book: the appeal of the underdog. This was not nearly as marked during the long years of Soviet subsidies, when Cuba too could be accused of aggression. But the mood is different now.

Cuba is not conceived of as a utopia any longer by most left-wing intellectuals in Europe, but the retreat has been gentler and less radical than it was with the case of the Soviet Union. This may be partly because Europeans don't have to think about Cuba all the time — it is a long way away, and it doesn't needle Europe in the same way that it does the United States. In addition, even Europeans who reject Communism tend to have a less apocalyptic view of it than do many in the United States, particularly now that it is all but over in Europe.

Americans often argue over what importance to give the dictatorial aspects of the Cuban system, in light of some of its more positive achievements such as education and health care, particularly in contrast to the glaring inequalities in the rest of Latin America. This debate has been less heated in Europe (except perhaps in Spain, where exiles broadcast many of the iniquities). But Europeans in general accept the ambiguities without forcing a conclusion: they have the leisure to think both things at once.

The issue they know more about is the American embargo, which does make them sit up. This is what preserves Cuba's radical chic in the streets of European capitals. In London, for instance, there are bars like the Bar Cuba or the Café Fidel, with walls smothered in revolutionary memorabilia. Of

Bella Thomas is a British journalist who writes about Latin America and has traveled to Cuba several times.



Foreign tourists on the beach at Varadero, Cuba, with the Hotel Melia Varadero — a joint venture between Cuba and Spaniards — in the background.

course Cuba has always been an intoxicating subject. Revolutions are more so, and Che Guevara remains a pin-up rivaled only by James Dean. (Café Fidel, in one of London's richest districts, was set up by an Italian who said she chose the name because it was "a bit outrageous," although she added: "I'm not interested in politics anymore, but I love the man.") The café inside is actually a highly sophisticated restaurant, serving Italian food, and is patronized by smart, conventional professionals.)

Europeans are now going to Cuba by the tens of thousands. They have a lot more to say when they return, not all of it about politics. The history of the island's political passions is a source of romance. The Spanish colonial buildings are a further pull. The island's partially forbidden nature provides magnetism. And then, given the tourist's choice between Miami and Havana, many choose Havana simply because there is something hard about the glitter of Miami and mean about its streets.

Europeans are also charmed in Cuba by the features that they do not have at home (and that they would doubtless be hard put to live with): the gentle pace of the streets, the

fact that the crowing of cocks drowns the noise of cars in city centers, and the distinctively anti-modern air given off by the texture of the cities, which can be an enthralling contrast to the bright sheen and sharp edges of their own metropolises. The wide-winged Chevrolets, the dim, white lighting, the crumbling architectural surface of Old Havana and the capacious vaulted rooms of public spaces all give ample room to frolic in nostalgia for a seemingly distant past. If they go into people's houses and absorb some of the appalling conditions in which people live, they may get a sense of the arduousness of the Cuban existence; but if they stick to the streets they need only wonder in amazement.

### No to Smugness

Paul Hollander, in his book "Political Pilgrims," which looks at the way many Western intellectuals were captivated by particular Communist countries, says that, in Cuba's case, it represented "an alternative to a smug and undynamic or inauthentic social order in their own countries."

This tendency may have declined, but other fears in Western society — of environmen-

tal degradation or consumerism — still work in Cuba's favor. Mr. Castro has capitalized on those by casting Cuba as an environmental haven, although this happened because of the shortage of fuel and fertilizers, which was obviously not planned.

Cuba is also surreal. Bréton and other early surrealists had a heyday there in the 1920's. I could only think of them when, for instance, I found two young boys fast asleep in a hotel elevator, or when someone tiptoed up to me in the street and whispered he could do me a special deal in chickpeas. On a deeper level, anthropologists refer to Cuba's dominant religion, Santería, as a form of syncretism, in that several different beliefs merged and blurred. Cubans today seem, in a sense, to be trying to do the same with politics: they are communists and capitalists at the same time and simply ignore or gloss over the contradictions.

And European businessmen, at least until Helms-Burton, have been traveling to Cuba in droves. (Spaniards, so closely tied to Cuba over the centuries, invariably feel they are coming home.) Not all businesses have made much money. Some are just gambling that the embargo will inevitably collapse. Others

are there for short-term profits. But they know, in the long run, like the owners of the Café Fidel in London, that Cuba has a thoroughly marketable edge. Mr. Castro no doubt enjoys the paradox.

A European ambassador to Havana reported a lighthearted conversation with Mr. Castro at a reception that, in an oblique way, hints at the difference between Cuba's relationships with America and with Europe, and how he plays one against the other. The subject was Manuel Fraga, the president of Galicia and Franco's former Information Minister — a significant pillar of the right in Spain and the only Western dignitary who was prepared to entertain Mr. Castro abroad in the early 1990's. The two had much to talk about because Mr. Castro's father was a "Gallego." Mr. Castro was describing how much he admired Mr. Fraga: "He is a good man," he said. "I would not even mind meeting Margaret Thatcher. . . . In fact, if I had been a European, perhaps I too would have been on the right." Part of Mr. Castro's charm is his ability to stagger his audience. It is this very unpredictability that frustrates Americans, but that can, partly because they have less at stake, still fascinate Europeans.

### The Language Wars

## To the Barricades, Speaking in Tongues

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

**N**EVER mind the French military might that rumbled down the Champs Élysées and roared overhead on Bastille Day. The struggle closest to French patriotic hearts is being fought out at the Olympic arenas of Atlanta — and not by the athletes. The French Foreign Ministry includes a whole office devoted to spreading the French language: its head, Margie Sudre, insisted vehemently on giving the French language its full due in Atlanta as the second official language of the Games. So 1,000 French-language interpreters have been in place to roam the Olympic village; scoreboards are written in French as well as English, and Mrs. Sudre was there in person on opening day to check up on how well the American organizers kept their promises to be multilingual.

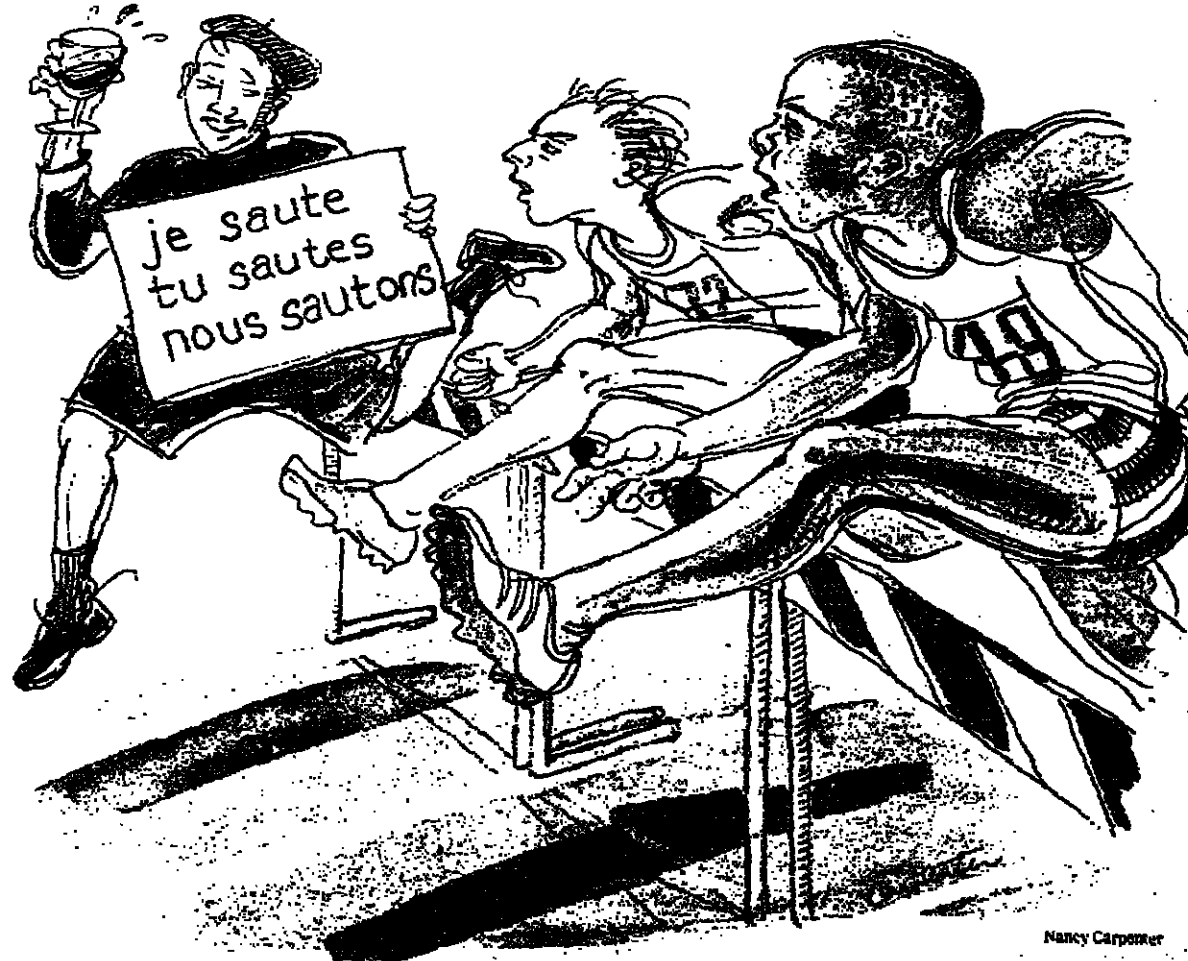
### French Fries Allowed

Americans may have trouble understanding why the French care so much about their language's survival in an increasingly anglophone world. For all the official prickliness about French industrial espionage, no one in the United States talks of banning french fries as a subversive influence. But in French-speaking Quebec, stores are banned from using signs with English words in bolder type than their French equivalents.

There is lots of talk in Europe, too, about cultural diversity these days, but on this side of the Atlantic the phrase stands for the desire to preserve the separate cultural and linguistic identities of the European nation states even as they move toward closer unity. Nobody wants nationalistic rivalries like the ones that caused two world wars, but nowadays nobody wants a United States of Europe, either, a federal state where everybody sees the same movies, buys the same store brands and speaks the same language.

If that kind of federalism ever did triumph here, survival of the fittest would probably mean that the common lingo would turn out to be English. So France resists — and so does Germany — putting up a valiant fight to spread the culture and the values their languages bear, along with commerce.

In Germany's case, proselytizing for the tongue of Luther and Goethe is partly a way of telling people that Hitler and the Holocaust are not all there is to German history. The larger reason for the sensitivity, and the one Germany and France share, is that the Continental



tongues are so badly outnumbered in the world today. French, notably, remains the official language of 21 countries and the co-official language of five more, including Canada. But the number of French speakers in all of them — about 200 million — does not even equal the population of Brazil, where the lingua franca is Portuguese. English, though, is used by one out of every seven people on the globe.

European colonialism is what originally spread French (as it did English, Portuguese, and Spanish) so widely. Now, the French language is helping keep the

colonial-era ties alive. Mrs. Sudre, who heads the Francophone Secretariat in the French Foreign Ministry, was born in French Indochina in 1943 and didn't even learn French, her father's language, until she was 8 years old. Ho Chi Minh's revolutionaries expelled the French colonial regime in 1954, but Vietnam has invited France's President, Jacques Chirac, to Hanoi next year, for the seventh annual meeting of the 49 nations of the francophone movement, or Francophonie, which includes lands where the language is culturally respected if not exactly widely spoken.

"I don't think that you can compare the situation of French in the world with English," she said. "The English that is spreading around the globe is really Anglo-American, not the pure English of Shakespeare's day. We want to try to preserve the richness, subtlety and precision of the French language against the challenge of this new form of English."

Purity of language and the ideals of freedom get talked about a lot at gatherings of the Francophonie, but France also wants to preserve economic influence in the world, and is wary of the advantage that speaking English gives to English-speaking countries like the United States in global trade.

French speakers are not the only ones with a messianic urge. The German Government spends \$200 million a year spreading German and German culture through 150 Goethe Institutes in 70 countries, but the German effort lacks the defensive overtone of the campaign led by France, which spends \$1 billion on francophonie. It doesn't bother Germans, for example, to call the programs that run computers "die Software." The French, on the other hand, insist "logiciel" is better.

### The New Battleground

More people in places like Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic speak German than French, and the French fear that in the long run their influence in the European Union will wane as these countries become members. French used to be the language of diplomacy, not of war, and in part France yearns for the power and influence that it had when Cardinal Richelieu and Talleyrand had to be listened to in the royal courts of Europe.

So Mr. Chirac insists that the heads of international organizations nowadays should be able to speak French — one reason France is eager to re-elect Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who speaks fluent French, as the United Nations Secretary General even though the United States opposes him.

In a moment of humility, Mr. Chirac might concede that the language spoken by most people today is Mandarin Chinese. But then, he might say, it does not need to struggle to preserve itself.

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July 28, 1996

# Ideas & Trends

## The Smallest Olympians Pay the Biggest Price

By SUSAN GILBERT

**T**he teen-agers on the American women's gymnastics team arrived in Atlanta for the Olympics with their prospects for victory clouded by injuries: one had a four-inch stress fracture in her leg, another had tendonitis in her forearm and wrist. The team members played through the pain and won a gold medal. But their quest for glory might cost them their health, doctors say.

All athletes risk injury, but the danger is particularly great for young female gymnasts whose growing bodies are especially vulnerable. Writing in *The New England Journal of Medicine* last week, three doctors criticized organized gymnastics for the physical and emotional hardships it imposes on young girls. Although girls and boys begin training between ages 5 and 7, girls have a limited time — usually from 12 until 19 — to compete. While the sport rewards strength in male gymnasts, who compete well into their 20's, it prizes a small childlike body in the female athletes.

Training for more than 20 hours a week puts girls and boys at risk of stress fractures and spinal damage like scoliosis and spondylolysis, says Dr. Lyle J. Micheli, director of sports medicine at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston and one of the authors of the journal article. Elite athletes train for 45 hours a week. "I've

**Intense training can suppress estrogen, delaying puberty and causing 18-year-olds to resemble 12-year-olds.**

seen gymnasts and former gymnasts with a high incidence of back deterioration, wrist problems and knee problems that can be quite debilitating and limit their activity as adults," Dr. Micheli said.

Girls' intense training suppresses estrogen production, delaying puberty and causing 18- and 19-year-old Olympians to resemble 12-year-olds. The lack of estrogen keeps their bones thin and puts them at risk of osteoporosis. Estrogen production and bone density return when they ease training or leave the sport. They begin menstruation — though sometimes not until their mid-20's — and fertility is unimpaired.

Still, some permanent damage may occur. "We think fine bone trabeculae, part of the structure of the bone, is lost and doesn't come back, and this leaves the girls at risk of arthritis," Dr. Micheli said. They may also never reach their full adult height, he said.

There may be long-term psychiatric consequences too. As many as 62 percent of these girls have eating disorders, compared to about 2 percent of the general population. "I see bad eating disorders and a lot of



Kerri Strug of the American gymnastics team executing an Olympic vault that led to a sprained ankle.

**Male gymnasts are prized for strength, females for their small childlike bodies.**

depression in gymnasts when the sport ends," said Dr. Barri Katz Stryer, a child psychiatrist and clinical instructor at the University of California at Los Angeles and one author of the *New England Journal* report.

The idea that these gymnasts are at their peak in their teen years reflects trends as whimsical as those dictating hemlines. In the past, top Olympic female gymnasts were in their 20's, occasionally even their 30's, but younger gymnasts came into vogue in 1972, when Olga Korbut of the Soviet Union won three gold medals and a silver medal at age 16. The trend continued when 14-year-old Nadia Comaneci of Romania won a gold medal in 1976.

### Favoring the Pixies

Coaches, judges and television audiences now favor pixielike gymnasts. "The routines have changed to accommodate them," said Dr. Ian R. Tofler, another author of the report who is director of child psychiatry at Children's Hospital in New Orleans and secretary of the International Society for Sports Psychiatry. "The Yurchenko vault requires gymnasts to be lightweight and agile, but it's the most dangerous event."

The sight of girls tumbling in mid-air has helped turn the sport into one of the most popular Olympic events. It has also increased their chances of injury and even death. Kerri Strug of the American team fell during the vault and sprained her ankle Tuesday night, only to make history by getting up to do it again. In a 1988 competition in Japan, Julissa Gomez, an American Olympic hopeful, broke her neck and later died.

While acknowledging the dangers, Luan Peszec, a spokeswoman for U.S.A. Gymnastics, which oversees American training, says, "A lot of people make inaccurate accusations that female gymnasts are pushed too hard, but the athletes can speak about this better than anybody else. Kerri has said she wanted to do the vault and win the gold medal more than anything."

U.S.A. Gymnastics has proposed several changes to make training safer for girls, including educating coaches about nutrition, child psychology and too much training. The problem, Dr. Micheli said, is enforcement.

So far, the only actual change is the decision made last month by the International Gymnastics Federation to require the athletes to be 16 before entering international competitions. It remains to be seen if that will ease the stresses of training.

Dr. Tofler sees two possible benefits: Girls will be able to delay their most intensive training, and the tide may turn in favor of taller, more physically mature female gymnasts.

### Plane Crashes and Politics

## The Latest Casualties Are Factual

By MATTHEW L. WALD

**S**MITHTOWN, N.Y. The day after T.W.A. Flight 800 exploded in the skies south of Long Island July 17, the local congressman announced that one of the black boxes had been found. Over the next few days, the President's chief of staff said investigators were looking closely for signs of terrorism and had detected "chemical leftovers" on plane debris. The Governor told the world, including the anxious families, that divers had found "dozens and dozens" of additional bodies.

At the time, all of the statements were wrong. The people who usually disseminate information after such incidents, the investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board, said little publicly.

The hours after a plane crashes are a time of information chaos, a torrent of purported facts, many of which turn out to be false. But in this crash and the last big one, the ValuJet DC-9 that plunged into the Everglades in May, something more has been happening: culture clash.

On one side are the old hands in aviation who know where the answers are. In this case the answers are in the debris nine miles offshore and 120 feet down, waiting to be pried from the sea by divers and decoded by metallurgists, chemists and computer specialists. It could take months.

### Grounded

On the other side are elected officials, who are of late drawn to such accidents to see and be seen, to offer comfort to the victims and reassurance to the public and press. Flanked by cameras and microphones, they eagerly spout information, even if it later turns out to be false.

The approach has its perils, as Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña discovered after going to the Everglades in mid-May to declare that ValuJet was safe. The airline was grounded weeks later.

Thrown into the mix of agencies and politicians in the T.W.A. crash is a top F.B.I. official who acknowledges that he has never dealt with a plane that crashed in water. Yet by its size alone the F.B.I. has come to dominate the investigation even though it is not in charge unless foul play is officially determined.

F.B.I. involvement has created several sources of information where usually there is only one, the safety board. The N.T.S.B. is a jealous agency that has in the past given an unceremonious boot to officials of other agencies who disclose any findings. Last year, it yanked a New York State investigator off a subway collision case because he persisted in publicly offering theories and explanations before the board was ready. In the case of T.W.A. flight 800, the board



Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato and F.B.I. Assistant Director James K. Kallstrom at a Long Island news conference on the crash.

has been unable to turn away high-ranking elected officials, who may misspeak or not fully understand what technical experts have told them. The resulting spectacle had the Federal official in charge of the recovery and investigation, Robert T. Francis of the safety board, announcing that human remains were being brought to the surface as fast as possible while Governor George E. Pataki was implying that large amounts of human remains were being bypassed.

The White House finally stepped in, to impose discipline, if not necessarily order, on the flow of information. President Clinton, contradicted his chief of staff, Leon Panetta, after Mr. Panetta's comments on terrorism and cautioned against premature conclusions. Then Mr. Panetta met with the chairman of the safety board, James Hall, and officials of other agencies to resolve

what Mr. Francis later called the "furor" of conflicting information.

Mr. Francis then stated publicly and sternly that his agency would be making the announcements — although in theory it had been all along. Mr. Pataki said later he had given out the information as he understood it at the time. In a separate news conference, Mr. Francis said, "Miscommunications are always unfortunate."

### An Information Fix

But the board's information system, some of its officials realize, is outdated. The cycle of sending people into the field every morning and holding a progress meeting every evening followed by a news conference at 8 or 9, worked better before the age of all-news television. And in this crash,

there is even less tolerance than usual for the normal delays of an aircraft investigation, and a sense that the trail of the bad guys (if they exist) is growing cold.

But if politicians are tempted to step in again, they might consider the fate of Mr. Peña. At a recent Senate Commerce Committee hearing, he was quizzed by Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, who was on the safety board in the mid-1970's. During her tenure, she said, secretaries of transportation never went to crashes — why did he?

Mr. Peña said he went to make it clear that the safety board is in charge. The Senator replied that the board had always performed well for itself.

Ms. Hutchison said that Mr. Peña should think about leaving the safety board to do its job, "without calling press conferences that tend to confuse the situation."

## An Echo

Continued From Page 1

Although the F.B.I. and other agencies say they have yet to determine what caused the T.W.A. crash — late last week, mechanical failure had not been ruled out — there are eerie echoes of Lockerbie, and they seemed to reverberate more loudly by the day.

Even the recovery of the T.W.A. cockpit voice recorder brought back memories of Pan Am 103. Officials of the National Transportation Safety Board said the device had recorded normal cockpit conversation, followed by a brief, unexplained interruption, then silence.

"I got goose bumps because it reminded me so vividly of Pan Am 103," said Vincent Cannistraro, the C.I.A.'s former chief of counterterrorism operations, who led the Pan Am 103 investigation. He added that on the Pan Am cockpit recording, "a crunching sound like the airplane breaking up" also interrupted the pilots' conversations. "That was the bomb."

In the days after the bombing, Lockerbie — where Scottish officials had set up their headquarters for investigating the crash and dispensing information to the world's press, which descended on the town — was bustling but emotionally muted. The town hall became a makeshift morgue; there were few public displays of anger over the pace of the recovery, as there have been since the T.W.A. crash.

It was not that victims' families had no complaints. In their 1990 book, "The Fall of Pan Am 103" (G.P. Putnam's Sons), Steven Emerson and Brian Duffy reported that a week after the crash, many British and American families "still had no word on when they could recover the bodies and at least give them a proper burial." Lockerbie itself was not just a crime scene; 11 of the town's residents died after the fiery debris from the jet struck their houses.

But Lockerbie was not media-driven. New York Scottish police officials had tried to persuade relatives not to go to Lockerbie for fear the experience would be too traumatic. Many did go, but they were largely shielded from reporters.

Perhaps the ferocity and swiftness with which some T.W.A. 800 family members have taken their case to the news media — and the media's desire to hear them — can be traced to the experience of Pan Am 103. Many Pan Am 103 families, furious at what they viewed as security lapses in airports before the bombing, and Government indifference to them after it, formed support and lobbying groups. Their vigilance, some officials have said, helped keep pressure on investigatory agencies to find the bombers.

It was an investigation that had started in the hills and meadows around Lockerbie, a search so painstakingly executed that, months after the crash, some relatives of the victims were getting heartbreaking reminders of what had happened over Scotland. So meticulous had the Scottish police been, in fact, that when some of the victims' clothing was returned to American families, it came back cleaned and pressed.



## Ideas & Trends

# RU 486: It Isn't Just Popping a Pill

By GINA KOLATA

**M**ARCIA B., a 30-year-old married sociologist who lives on the West Coast, knew she was pregnant as soon as she missed her menstrual period, and she knew she did not want to have the baby. "I did not want to be pregnant one second longer," she said. It was too early for a suction abortion, but she discovered she had another option. A clinic nearby was participating in studies of an abortion pill, called RU 486 in France and mifepristone in this country, and she could have an abortion with this method immediately. So she seized the opportunity.

In retrospect, she says, "Anyone who thinks it's just a matter of taking a pill is going to be let down." Mifepristone is expected to be widely available soon in America and has already been used by more than 200,000 women in Europe. The Population Council, a nonprofit organization, obtained a license to market the drug in the United States from its maker, the French company Roussel Uclaf, and tested it here, in clinics like the one that Marcia visited. On July 19, an advisory committee to the Food and Drug Administration concluded that the drug was safe and effective, clearing the way for the agency to license it for sale.

What are the practical realities, though? Abortion rights groups said that if the drug is approved, abortion will become more private and more widely available. Worried about violence and harassment from opponents of abortion rights, fewer and fewer doctors are willing to give surgical abortions. Fully 89 percent of counties have no abortion provider. Yet in a survey last year of obstetrician-gynecologists by the Kaiser Family Foundation, half said they were likely to use mifepristone if it is approved.

### Not Yet a Home Remedy

Dr. Elizabeth Newhall, who tested the drug in her Portland, Ore., clinic, Everywoman's Health, said it would be easy for gynecologists and for many internists and general practitioners to offer the drug, and eventually, she said, "I have no doubt that women will be able to do this at home." For now, though, the Population Council intends to restrict its use to doctors' offices.

"We are making women hang around in clinics in my opinion because we do not want anything bad to happen to anyone who takes the drug," Dr. Newhall said.

"The political aftermath would be so horrendous" if a woman took the drug and hemorrhaged at home.

The cost differences are negligible. A mifepristone abortion is expected to cost the same as a suction abortion, about \$250.

What about the experience? Dr. C. Wayne Bardin, a consultant to the Population Council, said 82 percent of women who took the drug reported intense uterine cramps, a dull pain that, Dr. Newhall said, is like the spasms from appendicitis or a gallstone attack.

Suction abortions also can hurt. "I think the pain attached to a suction abortion is much worse," Dr. Newhall said. "While it is much much briefer, the pain is more intense." In a suction abortion, a woman lies on a table and receives several shots of a local anesthetic in her cervix, like the kind a dentist uses before drilling. A doctor uses an instrument to grasp and pull her cervix open, inserts a flexible plastic tube into the uterus, and

she finally took three mifepristone tablets and went home. The pills block the action of the hormone progesterone, which is necessary to sustain a pregnancy.

### The Next Step

On Wednesday, she returned to the clinic for the next step of the abortion, taking another drug, misoprostol, that makes the uterus contract and expel the embryo. Then she waited for the abortion to begin, joining a handful of other women in the clinic, in a room equipped with cots and two bathrooms. At five weeks since her last menstrual period, Marcia's pregnancy was one of the earliest — a few of the women were 10 weeks pregnant. (The Population Council's studies included women who were up to 10 weeks pregnant, but the group has only applied to market it for women who were up to 7 weeks pregnant.)

"I definitely noticed a pattern," Marcia said. "The women who were later in pregnancy had a much harder time. They had really bad cramping and a lot of bleeding. It was kind of alarming." She said they soaked through pad after pad as their uteruses emptied.

"Those of us who were early were sitting there saying, 'When is this going to happen?'" Marcia said. She waited at the clinic for six or seven hours, she said. Nothing happened for the first three or four hours, then she bled a little. But she left the clinic not knowing whether she had had an abortion.

"A couple of days later, I was spotting a little and I passed something," she said, which she thought might be the remains. And then her pregnancy symptoms disappeared. She returned to the clinic and was proclaimed no longer pregnant.

Her experience was atypical. Dr. Irving M. Spitz of the Population Council said that 54 percent of women had their abortions within four hours after taking misoprostol. Only 8 percent had to wait more than 24 hours.

Dr. Beverly Winikoff of the Population Council said that women said they "like this method overwhelmingly," and that women praised the mifepristone abortions as being more "natural" and for giving them "control." But Marcia said she didn't feel that way. "With a surgical abortion, you have the advantage of knowing that when they turn the machine off you are not pregnant anymore," she said. But with mifepristone, she said, she had no idea when or even whether her abortion would be complete. Natural? "That is baffling to me," she said. "To me it seems incredibly unnatural."

### One woman says she left the clinic not knowing whether she had had an abortion.

suctions out its contents. After several minutes, it is over, although cramps can last for a half hour or more.

"It takes from one hour to two hours from your arrival at the clinic until you leave," Dr. Newhall said.

Marcia B., who asked that her last name not be used because her mother does not know about her five abortions, has tried both types. She has had four suction abortions and has worked in an abortion clinic, so she knows what they are like. She said the amount of pain is unpredictable. "I had one that barely hurt — it was like mild menstrual cramps," she said. But, she added, the last one she had "was excruciating."

She found out that there are drawbacks to mifepristone abortions, too. The first hurdle was "the time commitment," Marcia said. It required three visits to the clinic, the first two lasting for hours.

On her first visit, on a Monday, Marcia had an exam, filled out a questionnaire and gave informed consent. She was at the clinic for several hours before

## New Contract For the Poor

Continued From Page 1

deeper purpose: putting an electioneering President firmly on the spot.

If he signs the measure as is, President Clinton will appear to have fulfilled his famous pledge about ending welfare. In truth, he will have abandoned the vision that animated the slogan. Having sought office with the aim of a redefined social contract — health care for every American — he will be seeking re-election with a bill that begrudges poor infants their Pampers.

If he vetoes the bill, Mr. Clinton can preserve his allegiance to his original purpose, which promised more for the poor while demanding more from them. But he can also expect a rainstorm of Republican ridicule, from here to Election Day. In sending back a welfare bill for the third time, he will insure a parade of 30-second television ads calling him a back-tracker and a flip-flopper, a pledge-breaking defender of the status quo.

Welfare slogans are often at odds with welfare substance, as Mr. Clinton himself well knows, being a master of both. He underscored the distinction last week, in giving earthy consideration to what the Senate called welfare reform. "You can put wings on a pig, but you don't make it an eagle," he said.

### No Promises Now

But what the President didn't say last week was equally important. He didn't say he would veto the bill.

"He keeps his promise and he abandons his principles — or he keeps his principles and abandons his promise," said Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, Mr. Clinton's most vocal Democratic critic. "That's the dilemma he's in."

While the President is caricatured as a defender of the status quo, it's his activism that has fanned him in this thicket.

"End welfare as we know it" — it was remarkably bold and utterly vague, this snippet of 1992 campaign rhetoric that now holds social policy hostage. Had a Republican first said it, he or she would have been diagnosed with a case of hard-heartedness. But Mr. Clinton, a child advocate and husband of a child advocate, brought the notion instant credibility.

And great misunderstanding. Many people heard only the first two words: end it. But Mr. Clinton was mindful of the as-we-know-it qualifier. He was talking about new training programs, expanded child care, universal health care and, if need be, last-resort government jobs for those who exhausted a two-year limit.

When he finally put his plan in writing, in June 1994, it would have "invested" an extra \$10 billion over five years in the hopes of future payoffs. Now he faces a plan that heads \$70 billion in the other direction. It cuts \$60 billion from the anti-poverty budget and ends welfare by, well, ending welfare.

Under the Republican plan, families may receive no more than five years of benefits in a lifetime, and states

### The Republican bill offers more than earlier versions, but whom will it hurt?

can set much lower limits — as little as, say, 30 days.

According to estimates by LaDonna Pavetti of the Urban Institute, if the five-year limit were in effect today, about 2 million adults, with 4.5 million children, would be instantly short from the rolls. They are among the nation's least educated people, and are concentrated in the most blighted areas. In Detroit, 67 percent of the children receive welfare in the course of a year; in New York it's 39 percent. On what will they get by?

The Republicans haven't answered that question as much as they've turned it around: the middle class supports itself, so why can't the poor? With a handful of Democratic allies, they've put the status quo on trial. "We know the present system is a complete disaster," said Representative Clay Shaw, a Florida Republican and an architect of the House bill.

Senator Joseph Lieberman, a Connecticut Democrat, says the apocalypse is now. "Millions of children are in poverty, with their parents leading lives of desperation and hopelessness," he wrote last week, in urging the President to sign the bill.

Virtually no one defends the current system, whose ameliorative successes are invisible (money for shoes or a bowl of cereal) and whose major flaws are on full display. It is an affront to prized values — work, family, initiative and independence. The public hates it for good reasons (its indulgence of the indolent) and for bad reasons (its disproportionate support of racial minorities, who stay on the rolls longer).

### The Risk of Chaos

But to say the current system has failed is not to say it can't get worse. The few Democrats trying to salvage the safety net include the system's most acute detractors. Mr. Moynihan's fame originally derived from his warnings about illegitimacy. Edward I. Koch, former Mayor of New York, made a career of denouncing freeloaders. Now he asks, "Are we at the point in our history when we will permit children to starve?"

Of course not — the Republican bill would not do that. Indeed, it offers more than last year's version (more day care money, more medical care), which is partly what tempts the President to sign it.

The risk isn't starvation; it's just additional chaos, hurt and need. The Urban Institute estimates the bill will drive 2.6 million people below the poverty line — not to mention what it might do to those already there.

The nation's most successful job-placement program for welfare recipients, in Riverside, Calif., trimmed caseloads by about 10 percent; in removing anyone who has received benefits for more than five years, the Republicans assume that fully half of those on welfare can make it on their own. The Riverside program raised job earnings 28 percent — to an average of \$286 a month.

No doubt the harsh reality of an empty stomach will cause some people to do better. Some may indeed get jobs and marry, as Mr. Shaw predicts. Others may turn to prostitution or the drug trade. Or cling to abusive boyfriends. Or have more abortions. Or abandon their children. Or camp out on the streets and beg.

No one knows because no such risks have ever been taken. But if misery were motive enough, presumably the poor would have reformed themselves by now.

How odd that such a bill may become the chief legislative legacy of the first children's advocacy President. In deciding whether to affix his signature, Mr. Clinton will have to choose between welfare reform as he knew it and welfare repeal as his opponents came to define it.

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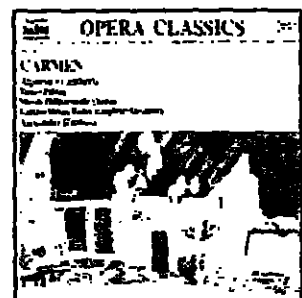
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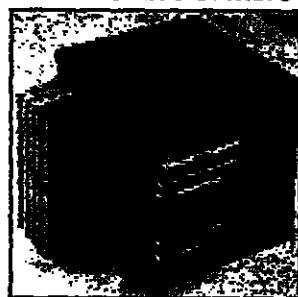


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ECONOMY

# Keeping Cool in a Room Full of Smoke at RJR Nabisco

By BARNABY J. FEDER

**P**ICTURE this job listing: Wanted, chief executive for tobacco/food company with restive shareholders; duties include shedding highly regarded food operations, reinvigorating tobacco products that have been declining for decades and competing at home and overseas with larger, deeper-pocketed rivals; must have thick skin and get used to being called a "merchant of death."

Since leading such a company is not most top-flight managers' idea of fun, the board of RJR Nabisco Holdings had few obvious options when gruff Charles M. Harper told them he wanted to quit last December after 18 months on the job. They could have begun an arduous search for an impressive outsider, though experience suggested that any recruit might come with one eye on the exit. They could have promoted one of their two seasoned vice chairmen, but one of them, H. John Greeniaus, the chief executive of Nabisco Holdings, had scant interest in tobacco, and the other, James W. Johnston, had been shunted into restricted roles by Mr. Harper after failing to light up the struggling tobacco business.

The other choice — and one reached unanimously and quickly — was Steven F. Goldstone, who had recently been named president after coming to the company as part-time general counsel less than a year earlier. Mr. Goldstone, 50, who is shorter than average but not as slight as he looked next to the 6-foot, 6-inch Mr. Harper, had rapidly become the chief executive's most trusted strategic adviser. He had also impressed the board with his ability to speak clearly about the most complicated issues and won the respect of other RJR executives who found him far more approachable than his boss.

When the appointment of the little-known Mr. Goldstone was announced on Dec. 5, many on Wall Street regarded him as a possible short-timer in the executive parade that has marched through RJR's New York City headquarters since 1989 when RJR was taken private by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Company in the largest leveraged buyout in history. Of his six predecessors, the longest reign had been the four-year stint of Louis V. Gerstner Jr., who cut out on the last year of his five-year contract in 1993 to take the more lucrative and influential job of turning around I.B.M.

These days, though, it looks as though Mr. Goldstone, a cigar smoker who gave up cigarettes at his doctor's insistence 17 years ago, has every intention of staying indefinitely — and he has the directors' strong backing to do so. He was elected chairman in May as Mr. Harper completed his transition to retirement.

Clearly, stability at the top would give the company a better shot at solving some problems that have festered in the tumultuous years since the buyout. Like every tobacco company, RJR has had to battle growing public condemnation of its products and marketing practices, wave after wave of lawsuits and the threat of tougher Government regulation.

But it also has its own set of woes. Though

it had revenue of \$16 billion last year, it continues to lose ground at home to the Philip Morris Companies, a much larger rival, and is outgunned in the race to expand globally by both Philip Morris and B.A.T. Industries of Britain. It is still struggling to stem a long decline of premium brands like Winston and Salem. Mr. Goldstone, like his counterparts in the 1980's, is chafing at the low value Wall Street places on RJR stock.

"What the market wants out of this company is a sense it is in control of its fate," Mr. Goldstone said.

The closer Mr. Goldstone comes to satisfying the market, of course, the more assured will be his place in the anti-smoking lobby's pantheon of arch-villains. At the same time, though, Mr. Goldstone, a corporate lawyer who had never run a company, would win not just acclaim on Wall Street but the chance to cash in on a rich, incentive-laden contract, including a bonus of 200,000 shares of RJR's stock, which closed at \$30.25 on Friday, reaches \$43.75 in the next three years.

Mr. Goldstone sympathizes with Wall Street's skeptical attitude, which he sees as a predictable response to RJR's rocky history since 1988. It was in October of that year that F. Ross Johnson, then chairman and chief executive, ignored the advice of Mr. Goldstone, his outside lawyer, and announced a bid by an investment group that he led to take RJR private.

The ensuing buyout battle, which Mr. Johnson and his team, including the apprehensive Mr. Goldstone, lost to Kohlberg Kravis, raised RJR's stock price beyond Mr. Johnson's wildest dreams. But it also cost him and many of his senior lieutenants their jobs. And it saddled RJR with \$25 billion of new debt, much of it junk bonds with interest rates that climbed as high as 17 percent.

As RJR's new owners, Kohlberg Kravis recruited high-profile executives to clean up the financial mess. First came Mr. Gerstner from American Express, who impressed subordinates with his attention to detail but who also made it clear from the start that he saw the company as a stepping stone to other jobs, several company insiders say.

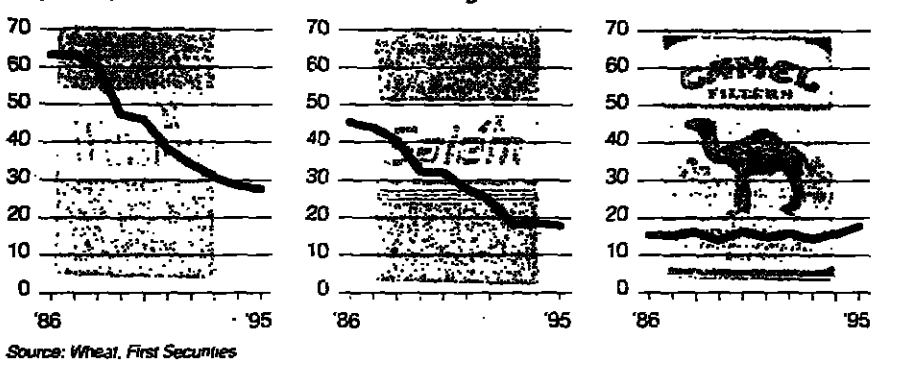
After a brief interlude when two executives from the Gerstner team acted as co-chairmen, Kohlberg Kravis lured Mr. Harper, who was then 86, from Conagra Inc. to finish the financial restructuring. Mr. Harper, who had given up smoking after a heart attack, was renowned for building Conagra from a small Nebraska food company into a multinational giant. He closed his tenure with the introduction of the spectacularly successful Healthy Choice food products.

His primary missions at RJR were to pare debt and split off Nabisco, the food company, from RJR's tobacco operations. But the spinoff plan bogged down in a blizzard of anti-tobacco lawsuits after the initial public offering in January 1995 of 19.5 percent of Nabisco's stock. Frustrated, Mr. Harper announced plans in December to return to his home in Omaha to be with his ailing wife, and he persuaded the board to turn over the reins at RJR to Mr. Goldstone.

It was not a hard sell. Mr. Harper, who goes by the nickname "Mike" but has been

## Changing Tastes

RJR Nabisco is struggling to halt the decline in domestic sales of two of its three major full-price brands. Sales in billions of cigarettes.



called Big Foot behind his back, was known for intimidating subordinates. "Conflict is extraordinarily desirable in coming to good decisions," an unapologetic Mr. Harper said recently.

Maybe so, but in this case, it wasn't enough to produce the sort of results that would have made him a hero to the RJR board. The company's share price inched up 8 percent on his watch, to \$30.25 from \$28.125, while shares of RJR's archrival, Philip Morris, soared nearly 80 percent in the same period.

To be sure, Mr. Harper could assert that forces beyond his control were at work, including Kohlberg Kravis's sale of its 40 percent stake in the company. Earnings also suffered from a ferocious price war initiated by Philip Morris in 1993 in response to Mr. Gerstner's earlier bid to grab market share with bargain cigarette brands.

Still, Mr. Harper delivered no pleasant surprises to offset such setbacks, and Mr. Goldstone, who had joined RJR in February 1995, quickly established himself as a potential leader.

His rapid advance from part-time to full-time work, and in October, his promotion to president, were welcomed by many senior RJR managers, who were only too happy to drop by his office and let him serve as mediator with Mr. Harper.

Mr. Goldstone's most obvious assets — the legal skills and financial experience accumulated during his years as a lawyer specializing in corporate mergers and acquisitions — became steadily more valuable as lawsuits piled up, along with demands from dissatisfied shareholders led by Bennett S. LeBow and Carl C. Icahn, to hasten the Nabisco spinoff.

"You couldn't have designed a better person to lead the battle against LeBow," said Lawrence R. Ricciardi, the former RJR general counsel and president, who eventually followed Mr. Gerstner to I.B.M.

Perhaps his most deft feat was winning the trust of so many senior RJR executives while working so closely with the increasingly unpopular Mr. Harper. "His fingerprints are on all my key decisions," Mr. Harper said. "He participated in the impor-

tant people changes, and not just by saying, 'Yes, Mike.'"

Mr. Goldstone has been involved in RJR affairs much longer than most outsiders realize.

The son of a manager at a nightgown factory, he grew up in the Westchester County suburbs of New York City and went straight to work as a Wall Street lawyer after graduating from New York University Law School. He represented RJR when it acquired Del Monte in 1979 and Nabisco when it merged with Standard Brands in 1980, four years before the food company was acquired by RJR. He caught the attention of RJR's general counsel, Mr. Ricciardi, during a 1994 review of tobacco litigation and became Mr. Ricciardi's first choice as successor when he departed.

Before moving from his law firm to RJR, Mr. Goldstone said, he gave considerable thought to the anti-tobacco sentiment in the United States.

"If I believed a lot of the stuff I've read I'd be troubled," he said. "But I'm comfortable that it's a legitimate pleasure for adults with known risks." He noted that he takes flying lessons, exposing himself to a danger that his friends describe as lunatic. "Not to sound too red-white-and-blue about it, but taking risks is what this country is about," he added.

Asked about the recent comment of Bob Dole, the likely Republican Presidential nominee, that tobacco isn't necessarily addictive to all smokers, he said: "Millions of adults enjoy the products and also millions have chosen to stop smoking without the aid of treatment centers, clinics or drugs. I don't think there's a lot more to add on the issue."

Mr. Goldstone's more immediate concern is not smokers' perception of health risks, but investors' qualms about the risk of buying RJR stock. To court disgruntled shareholders, he pushed through a dividend increase and a \$100 million share repurchasing program this spring.

The measures were modest compared with what investors have come to expect

annually from Philip Morris, but RJR hopes that by moving in the same direction for the first time since 1988, it can show Wall Street that it no longer should be trading at such a large discount to its rival.

Mr. Goldstone also argues that the company is in a better competitive position overseas — an explosive growth market — than most American investors realize. While smoking in the United States has declined 20 percent in the last two decades, exports of American cigarettes have more than tripled. And the big producers, including RJR, have invested billions of dollars to acquire production capacity in newly open markets in Asia and Eastern Europe. In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe alone, where tobacco was formerly controlled by state-run monopolies, smokers light up 100 billion cigarettes annually, compared with 500 billion in the United States.

American companies' share of world cigarette production is just 13 percent, but consumer surveys show smokers' preferences in many countries shifting toward "American blend" products like Philip Morris's Marlboro and RJR's Camel and Winston.

"There's a 10-year window to grab enough market share that you are too big for even Philip Morris to crush when the dust settles," said Jason Wright, a company spokesman. Mr. Goldstone predicts that the company's \$3.2 billion international operations will grow at least 10 percent this year, and by steadily increasing percentages for many years after.

A reminder of how hard it could be to meet such goals cropped up in RJR's second-quarter earnings, reported on Tuesday. International sales were flat because of economic disruptions in Russia. Over all, the company had operating profits slightly above Wall Street forecasts, although there was a net loss of \$27 million after absorbing a \$248 million charge for restructuring at Nabisco.

For now, RJR is focusing most of its international effort on building its leading brands in big markets where the company already has a significant presence, like its heavily advertised program for Camel Lights in France. One of its toughest tasks will be reversing the decline in its share of cigarette sales in the United States, now down to about 25 percent. The erosion has come despite the strong performance of its discount Doral brand and the stunning turnaround of Camel, after decades of weakening sales, into one of the fastest-growing premium brands.

One of RJR's newest marketing ploys has been the creation of the Moonlight family of brands, specialty cigarettes like Metro and City Lights that are sold in nightclubs, discos and other urban gathering spots. They are aimed at smokers looking for novelty, such as microbreweries have been a hit among beer drinkers seeking more variety.

The company also maintains hopes for Eclipse, the nearly smokeless cigarette that it is now test-marketing. So far, it is performing better than Premier, the company's previous stab at creating a market for products that primarily heat tobacco rather than burn it. If either the Moonlight line or Eclipse gains even 1 percent of the \$45 billion market, it would be the industry's most successful product introduction since the 1970's.

At the same time, the company continues to experiment with adjustments in the taste, packaging and image of its mature brands. The newest Winston slogan, "No bull," for example, is an allusion to the absence of additives, like moisturizers and flavors, in the tobacco of Winstons being test-marketed in Florida.

"We are trying to put innovative ideas behind a portfolio of products," Mr. Goldstone said. "Salespeople get charged up if they get a sense they are working for a company that isn't brain-dead."

Most tobacco analysts say the industry is undervalued and a few argue that RJR is actually a better bet than Philip Morris at current levels. Still, Wall Street remains skeptical: in recent months, Philip Morris has traded roughly 12 times its projected cash earnings, while RJR has been at 8 times. If the gap closed to the single point that prevailed in 1988 before RJR became so beholden to its bondholders and to Kohlberg Kravis, RJR's share price would soar by about 40 percent, to around \$42.

"Most companies trading at eight times cash earnings are in miserable shape," Mr. Goldstone said. "We're not. We've just got to demonstrate we're through punishing shareholders." Even a lawyer would have a hard time arguing.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

PERFORMANCE		IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.			
Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	% Chg.	YTD
Australia	193.95	-0.8	8	2.1	19	4.40	163.75	-3.6	
Austria	178.50	-0.2	3	2.3	17	2.05	137.36	5.8	
Belgium	209.80	-0.6	7	0.2	22	4.22	157.66	4.0	
Brazil	171.65	-5.5	26	24.4	1	2.04	318.80	29.2	
Britain	231.64	-0.5	6	0.5	21	4.25	220.82	0.3	
Canada	155.97	-1.7	14	5.1	9	2.31	155.15	5.8	
Denmark	306.66	-0.9	10	6.2	8	1.93	238.45	9.5	
Finland	191.42	-0.4	5	2.3	16	2.77	180.58	5.9	
France	188.42	-1.1	11	5.0	10	3.24	148.58	8.0	
Germany	170.78	-1.3	12	4.3	12	1.85	131.49	7.9	
Hong Kong	412.38	-2.2	16	6.4	7	3.50	409.42	6.4	
Ireland	275.13	0.1	2	7.7	5	3.58	239.82	6.8	
Italy	75.28	-4.0	22	2.1	18	2.58	85.84	-1.7	
Japan	148.40	-1.5	13	-4.2	23	0.75	101.57	0.5	
Malaysia	530.89	-4.8	25	9.4	2	1.76	509.63	7.4	
Mexico	1128.63	-3.3	20	9.0	3	1.42	937.76	7.4	
Netherlands	282.92	-2.4	17	3.7	14	3.36	214.78	7.6	
New Zealand	83.07	3.0	1	4.3	13	4.29	63.31	-2.1	
Norway	248.65	-0.9	9	7.5	6	2.10	215.25	8.5	
Singapore	385.14	-3.8	21	-5.4	24	1.51	251.39	-5.3	
South Africa	336.13	-4.3	23	-12.8	25	2.26	327.63	6.7	
Spain	173.16	-2.7	18	4.8	11	3.53	165.49	9.0	
Sweden	338.31	-2.1	15	6.4	4	2.59	329.72	7.7	
Switzerland	236.64	-3.0	19	1.1	20	1.66	178.94	6.3	
Thailand	144.91	-8.7	28	-13.9	26	2.32	142.35	-13.5	
United States	258.88	-0.4	4	3.0	15	2.28	258.88	3.0	

COMPOSITE INDICES		IN U.S. DOLLARS		IN LOCAL CURR.		
Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	
Europe	206.18	-1.4	2.6	3.19	177.32	4.4
Pacific Basin	160.58	-1.7	-2.8	1.22	112.12	0.7
Europe/Pacific	179.46	-1.6	-0.3	2.16	136.81	2.4
World	204.64	-1.1	1.2	2.21	175.06	2.9

WORLD INDEX in U.S. dollars

JAPAN INDEX in U.S. dollars

Exchange rates

Exchange rates	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	108.37	107.95	+0.38	88.15
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.4822	1.4865	-0.28	1.3615
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3745	1.3691	-0.39	1.3671
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.5545	1.5455	+0.58	1.6004

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

## July 22-26: Small Stocks Continue to Slide as the Bond Market Waits to Hear From the Fed

PRICES

DOMESTIC EQUITIES

Broad market	Down 0.44%
S. & P. 500 index	635.90
Blue chips	Up 0.85%
Dow 30 industrials	5,473.06
Small capitalization	Down 2.17%
Russell 2000 index	314.57

DOMESTIC BONDS

Treasuries	Down 0.24%
Ryan Labs. Total Return	185.69
Municipals	Up 0.05%
Bond Buyer index	114.38
Corporates	Down 0.16%
Merrill Lynch Master index	801.50

AROUND THE WORLD

European stocks	Down 1.44%
F.T.-Actuaries Europe	206.18
Asian stocks	Down 1.73%
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	160.56
Gold	Up 0.10%
New York cash price	\$385.70

Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms.

YIELDS

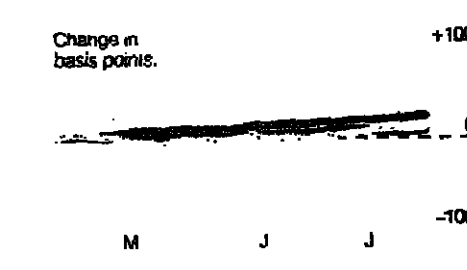
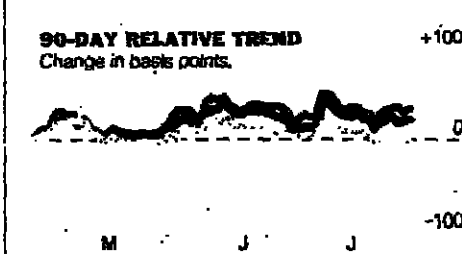
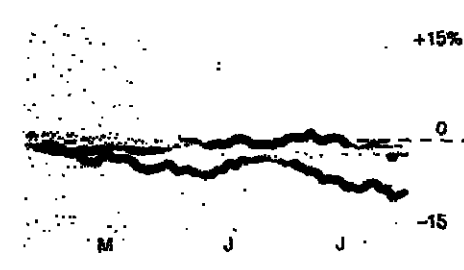
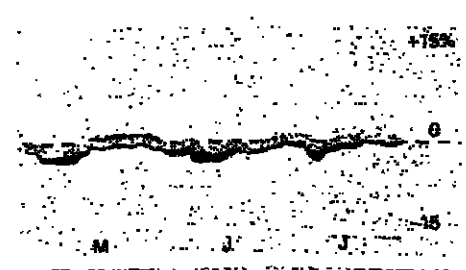
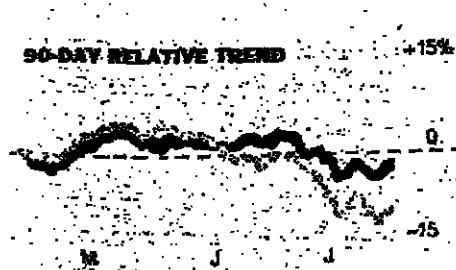
BONDS

Long bonds	7.01%
30-year Treasuries	Up 3 basis pts.
Notes	6.27%
2-year Treasuries	Up 7 basis pts.
Municipals	5.99%
Bond Buyer index	Down 1 basis pt.

100 basis points = 1 percentage point

OTHER INVESTMENTS

Money market funds	4.80%
Taxable average	Up 2 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s	5.07%
1-year small savers	Up 3 basis pts.
Stocks	2.32%
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Up 1 b.p.



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs



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DAVID A. THURM, VP, Production

## A Storm Surge of Terror

Olympic officials and the Atlanta host committee made the correct decision in going ahead with the Games yesterday. The fact that they announced the decision promptly does not indicate they made it casually. They consulted with the White House and Federal law enforcement officials before dawn. As a result, most Americans awakened to receive simultaneously the news of the attack at Centennial Olympic Park and the announcement that the events scheduled for yesterday would continue.

Terrorists vary in their political goals. But their psychological game is almost always the same. They want to put the public and their leaders into a panic that weakens their will, their judgment and their faith in their political structures — what President Clinton called "the spirit of our own democracy." Prudence and persistence are the qualities that can and were brought to bear against the initial surge of dismay that everyone feels when killers convert the most dreadful fantasies into reality. "We must be firm in this," Mr. Clinton said yesterday as he applauded the response of local officials and promised an intense Federal investigative response. "We cannot be intimidated by acts of terror."

Sadly, the tactic of intimidation and even the structure of the bomb had a sharp historical edge for Atlanta. The city and the region suffered through a rash of such bombings over three decades ago. The bomb — a shrapnel device stuffed with nails and other sharp objects — was of a type used in the South in the 60's. That history is recalled here not to prejudice the origin of this attack, but to make

the point that these evil acts come in waves. After being buffeted with assassinations, bombings and hijackings, the United States enjoyed a decrease in such acts during the early 90's. The Olympics had been blessedly free of violence since the horrendous assault on Israeli athletes at Munich in 1972. Now, alas, we seem to be back in a storm surge of violence. The hopes for a prolonged cessation in Ireland and the Middle East have dimmed. Murderous terrorism has in recent years touched Manhattan, Oklahoma City, American troops abroad and, if the worst suspicions prove true, the Long Island crash site.

This grim list argues for a smart and firm response from the American Government, especially given our role as the bellwether state when it comes to a coordinated international offensive against terrorists of all stripes. Mr. Clinton got off to a good beginning with his resolute comments and quick tactical response to the Atlanta bombing. Now he needs to keep the pressure on the Justice Department and other law enforcement, intelligence and military units involved in fighting terrorism. That means a continuing focus on the immediate problems, as well as a searching review of the Government's spending and strategy during what could be a protracted spasm of terrorist attacks.

In the next few days, there will be plenty of what-ifs about Atlanta. Under concentrated Presidential leadership, Washington needs to be asking what next, and to be devising strategies for breaking the momentum of the terrorists before they erode our capacity to choose prudence over panic.

## After Mr. Mandela

Few leaders in recent history have forged a popular sainthood as durable as Nelson Mandela's. The veneration the South African President received on his trip to Britain and France early this month inspired one cartoonist to portray him walking across the English Channel. More important, two years after his election, Mr. Mandela retains the trust and support of his people. South Africa's transition has been astonishingly smooth, largely due to Mr. Mandela's commitment to democracy and reconciliation.

But his term expires in 1999, and the 78-year-old Mr. Mandela might step down sooner. His successor, undoubtedly, will be a mere mortal. What will happen then? The answer is probably nothing. South Africans are a lot calmer about the question than foreigners, who tend to believe that the success of the transition rises and falls with Mr. Mandela. In fact, the African National Congress's depth is impressive. The Cabinet and provincial governments boast many capable leaders.

Mr. Mandela has said he would like to be succeeded by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who is running much of the Government day-to-day and met last Thursday with President Clinton. There are credible challengers for the A.N.C.'s nomination, but it is now Mr. Mbeki's to lose. Given the A.N.C.'s tremendous popularity, so is the presidency.

The uncharismatic Mr. Mbeki is a choice designed to soothe whites and foreign governments and investors. He was influential in persuading Mr. Mandela to adopt a conservative economic plan that ties the country's economic future to outside investment. Ironically, the main threat to South African stability after Mr. Mandela leaves may arise from this decision, which emphasizes the investment climate over the needs of poor blacks.

The Government's first budget shifted only 3 percent of spending toward the poor. The Government promised a million houses in five years. It has built only 12,000. Poor people trust Mr. Mbeki, and have been willing to wait. But it is an open question whether they will extend that trust to Mr. Mbeki, who has no grass-roots base and is seen as aloof.

Further, Mr. Mbeki has made unsavory alliances to preserve his power. He outmaneuvered the respected Cyril Ramaphosa to become Mr. Mandela's heir, and to do it forged an alliance with Winnie Mandela, the A.N.C.'s most dangerous demagogue. He has been blamed for the Government's failure to lobby Nigeria publicly before the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other opposition figures last November. He is obsessed with press criticism. But this is epidemic among politicians, and he is careful to note that the Constitution guarantees freedom of the press.

Mr. Mbeki's basic commitment to democracy is not in doubt, and his missteps have been no worse than President Mandela's, which do not get much attention abroad. The Government's worst misstep — still reversible — is a clause in the new Constitution allowing Parliament to alter the Bill of Rights with a two-thirds majority vote. The Constitutional Court is reviewing this clause, and will probably ask Parliament to rewrite it.

The most important reason for optimism about post-Mandela South Africa, however, has nothing to do with Mr. Mbeki. It is that Mr. Mandela is preventing the emergence of a cult of personality. His Government is creating real democratic institutions, respecting the independence of the Central Bank, the judiciary and the press. He is laying a solid foundation for a lasting democracy, one that does not depend on who comes next.

### Editorial Notebook

#### Signs of Bad Times

For urban sociologists, Grand Central Terminal nowadays offers an arresting rush-hour spectacle. Commuters sprinting by ticket windows glance reflexively upward at a vast empty space that until recently was occupied by a big board that posted arrivals, departures, track numbers and destinations, all in legible white letters on rotating black shutters.

The station is being renovated and the board has gone. Arrivals and departures are now listed on tiny television-like screens in obscure corners of the vast station. Station authorities promise that larger electronic signs will be installed in a few years to compensate for loss of the big board.

I confess to admiring the station's restoration. But I also hope that the people in charge take the problem of signage seriously. Over the years, New York has been almost aggressively indifferent to travelers who need plain, easily visible directions on how to reach their destination.

A decade ago, for example, the Port Authority and the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Commission promised to improve the signs to and from Kennedy and La Guardia Airports and the various tunnels and bridges to New Jersey. Yet according to American Automobile Association engineers, airport signage is still erratic and futile. At crucial turns in heavy traffic, motorists look in vain for trailblazers, the little medallions bearing symbols of airports, bridges and tunnels.

The literate and less literate are equally baffled by New York signage. A former Yale president, Benno Schmidt, confessed in a Times Op-Ed article in 1983 that, even though he was a New Yorker, "Every time I go up the Harlem River Drive in search of the Henry Hudson Parkway, my pulse quickens with fear that I will wind up on the George Washington Bridge. Parkways north of the city remain a maze. Long Island is inscrutable." This is an old complaint, shared by tourists and

#### A Landmark Vanishes In Grand Central

residents alike. So I was pleased to hear it echoed by no less than the city's new Transportation Commissioner, Christopher Lynn. On the telephone, he could not have been clearer: "I'm giving top priority to better and simpler signs."

He has his work cut out for him. Nothing is more basic than street signs, but even the busiest intersections in midtown Manhattan are often missing signs on the corners. I have heard craning bus passengers shout, "Can somebody say where we are?" and hope for an answer. Moreover, with impressive ingenuity, street signs are often located out of range of street lamps, so they can barely be read after dusk.

In subways, the maze of letters and numbers is so confusing that even native New Yorkers frequently give inaccurate directions to baffled strangers. After using the subways and buses in Paris, London and Berlin, I have concluded that mass transit in New York is as difficult to fathom as the maze of colored lines on the maps in every subway car. Above ground — whimsically, and for no apparent reason — motorists will find signs reading "To Javits Center" (which is way over on the West Side) on random corners on the Upper East Side.

A curious aspect of this urban blight is that it could be ameliorated at modest cost to City Hall. Wistfully, hopefully, fatalistically, this New Yorker suggests the following to Commissioner Lynn and other reformers:

1. Embedding street numbers and names on corner buildings, costs to be shared with owners;
  2. Generously scattering signs showing directions to Lincoln and Javits Centers, to major museums, and to East and West Side drives;
  3. Offering prizes to designers for a more coherent subway map;
  4. Restoring the big departure board at Grand Central.
- KARL E. MEYER

## Our Welfare System Is Hardly a Total Failure

To the Editor:

A July 24 front-page article quotes Senator Pete V. Domenici as saying that welfare is "a system that has failed in every aspect." The system has produced some behaviors by welfare recipients that we as a society may find objectionable. But it does not follow that the system has failed in every aspect.

In terms of its original goal — to provide relief to children — it has succeeded. It has helped raise many poor people above the poverty threshold. That we have come to define welfare in terms of the ability to get off the rolls and into a job ultimately says more about the reasonableness of our expectations than about the success or failure of the system.

OREN M. LEVIN-WALDMAN  
Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.  
July 24, 1996  
The writer is a resident scholar at the Jerome Levy Economics Institute at Bard College.

### The System Coerces

To the Editor:

People like Bob Herbert (column, July 22) either evade or are unable to understand that the morality that welfare statism rests on — sacrificing the producers to the less- or unproductive — is evil. When the government's monopoly on force is used to rob an individual of his earnings, which he has an inalienable right to keep, it is nothing less than vicious.

"Those who talk about welfare as essential to a 'compassionate society' are not making sense," writes Jared Taylor in "Paved With Good Intentions." "A nation that forces its people to give to the poor has written off compassion and has turned to coercion."

People in need are not the responsibility of society at large. The only moral recourse is to leave people free of statist coercion

and let them voluntarily give to whomever and whatever they choose.  
JOSEPH KELLARD  
Oceanside, L.I., July 24, 1996

### They'll Never Know

To the Editor:

So Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and 73 other senators of both parties think the latest welfare reform bill is better for people on welfare (Op-Ed, July 25). Has any one of them ever tried to feed a family of five on food stamps; tried to find work in a ghetto where few jobs exist; tried to raise children to be good citizens in communities where a knife wound is easier to come by than a textbook; tried to get by for a month on \$352.10? "Welfare as we know it": luckily for them, they never will.

SUSAN WOLLMAN  
New York, July 25, 1996

### Democratic Imperative

To the Editor:

As a New York State Assemblyman, I urge President Clinton not to sign the welfare reform bill. To me and 24 of my Democratic legislative colleagues who also signed this letter, no conceivable amendments would make the bill acceptable to us or, we would hope, to the President.

The House and Senate versions of the bill attack principles the Democratic Party has held and struggled for for decades: that the Government has an obligation to care for the needy; that children in dire circumstances are a national responsibility; that if provided with an opportunity to work, people will work; that immigrants are welcome to our shores.

A President seeking the endorsement of the party once again, and seeking the active support of its rank and file, should not sign a bill so inimical to the beliefs of so many Democrats. With the President speaking out for a truly Democratic agenda, the ugly noise over the Republican welfare bill will fade into the nether reaches of opportunistic politics, whence it came. And we Democrats can regroup and focus on re-electing our President.  
EDWARD C. SULLIVAN  
New York, July 25, 1996

### In the Beginning There Was Anonymity

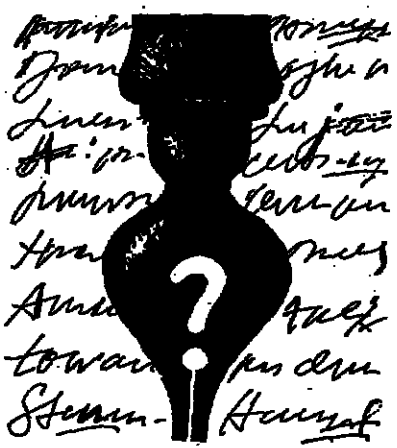
To the Editor:

Defending the concept of anonymity and the journalist Joe Klein's adherence to the convention in the writing of his novel, "Primary Colors," Joyce Carol Oates (Op-Ed, July 22) suggests that Blaise Pascal, the 17th-century mathematician and philosopher, invented the definition of God as "a circle whose center is everywhere and circumference nowhere."

But the very same phrase occurs on a 18th-century astrolabe in Milan, a device used by astronomers and astrologers. The instrument depicts Hermes Trismegistus, the "trice great" Hermes, or Thoth, as he was called in ancient Egypt.

Whether he was the author or the object of the definition is unlikely to be established, given that his very existence cannot be ascertained. Nor did the astrolabe's maker sign the device: both the saying and the person who engraved it are anonymous.

So it is with many ancient and most medieval works. Historians of art and literature play a great game of assigning names to the nameless or else devise desperate pseudonyms for them. Yet whether or not names



are attached shouldn't affect how we react to their achievements. In urging that we respond to the creation rather than to its creator's name, Ms. Oates appeals to an honorable tradition much older than she seems to believe.  
ANTHONY CUTLER  
University Park, Pa., July 24, 1996  
The writer is a professor of art history at Pennsylvania State University.

### Colombia Cases Cast No Cloud on President

To the Editor:

Contrary to your July 24 news article "Two Convictions in Colombia Cast New Cloud on President," the sentences that were imposed on two of my former political associates by independent judges clarify this situation in a positive manner.

In fact, the investigation by the House of Representatives concluded that I did not participate in any acts that may have occurred during the presidential campaign relating to a solicitation of money from people with ties to drug trafficking.

My defense attorney demonstrated that if such acts did occur, the purpose of those involved was not to finance the presidential campaign but rather to take advantage of their position for their own personal gain.

In accordance with Colombian law, people convicted of illegal enrichment are subject to prison terms of 5 to 10 years and a fine equal to the increase in personal wealth derived from the illicitly obtained money.

That the sentence imposed on Santiago Medina included a fine of more than \$3.3 million and the sentence imposed on former Senator Maria Izquierdo included a fine of \$50,000 demonstrates that the money of the drug chiefs entered their coffers, not the presidential campaign. If they had acted solely as intermediaries of the campaign, they would not have been personally enriched.

I agree with you that it is not logical that a person directly tied to drug trafficking, Jorge Luis Ochoa, the No. 2 man in the Medellin cartel, should be sentenced to only five years in prison. That is why I have proposed to the Colombian congress a reform of the laws enacted during the last government. My proposal substantially increases the penalties for narcotics trafficking, money laundering and illicit enrichment.

ERNESTO SAMPER PIZANO  
President  
Bogotá, Colombia, July 24, 1996

### On Burma, the West Fails Test of Democracy

To the Editor:

Re "Burmese Win Observer Status in Southeast Asia Group" (news article, July 22): It is no surprise that regimes like Indonesia and Singapore support this military dictatorship. Yet even though members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have said they are not interested in the restoration of democracy in Myanmar, formerly Burma, Western governments still argue that their policy must be coordinated with Asean's.

If Myanmar is the test of the West's commitment to supporting

post-cold war democratic movements, our governments are failing so far. Companies like PepsiCo, whose Burmese partner recently led an anti-democracy rally, should leave now rather than wait until United States officials realize the obvious. Myanmar's elected representatives had sound reasons for calling for sanctions against their own country.

REID COOPER  
Ottawa, July 24, 1996  
The writer is coordinator of the Burma-Tibet Group, Ontario Public Interest Research Group.

### School Prayer Proponents Reject U.S. History

To the Editor:

"School Prayer Politics" (editorial, July 24) is right in observing that the constitutional amendment proposed by Dick Armye, the House majority leader, "is not merely unnecessary, it is dangerous."

One cannot overestimate the bitterness of the conflicts engendered if a school prayer amendment were to be debated in each of the 50 states or if the introduction of religious practices were to be debated in the thousands of school districts around the country. Such conflicts are inherently irreconcilable.

It is a mistake to suggest that proponents of the Armye amendment are "trifling" with the Constitution. They are not conservatives; they do not seek to conserve the American past but to abrogate it. They are trying to convince us that the separation of church and state is a recent and perverse invention of the Supreme Court.

But they have forgotten that in 1786 the Senate ratified a treaty declaring that "the Government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion."

Religious values have contributed to the moral life of this country. Those who advocate a constitutional amendment gutting the establishment clause threaten America's moral character.

ROBERT S. RIFKIND  
President  
American Jewish Committee  
New York, July 24, 1996

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### Women Base Their Votes On More Than Abortion

To the Editor:

Judging from "The G.O.P.'s Problem With Women" (Week in Review, July 21) and "Some Moderate Women Are Taking a New Look at Dole" (news article, same day), both parties' candidates still believe in the gender gap myth rather than grasping the truth that would keep them from sinking on "women's issues."

American women are not of one mind and do not base their vote on one issue.

The news media have it that the abortion issue is driving women away from the Republican Party. But in a telephone poll we commissioned in February of American women on the issues, only 1 percent of the 1,000 women surveyed said that abortion is the most serious issue facing the nation.

It is a concern — 55 percent said they thought that abortion should be banned or restricted to cases of rape, incest or danger to the mother's life — but is not the driving force behind their vote. Issues like crime and a decline in moral values ranked much higher.

On welfare reform, 7 out of 10 women favor conservative solutions. And when asked if they would prefer to stay at home to be full-time mothers, 8 of 10 said yes.

A majority was also in favor of tax credits so they would be able to stay at home. Women are concerned about their children. They want to be able to choose quality education and to have authority over what their children are being taught in school.

Women want to know where the candidates stand on these issues and which candidate they can believe. The answers will determine how women vote in the 1996 Presidential election. The news media and political leaders ought to pay attention to women's positions instead of to a myth.

CARMEN PATE  
Vice President of Communications  
Concerned Women for America  
Washington, July 25, 1996

### Kathy, Mary, Marvin

To the Editor:

It is obvious that Kathy Duggan ("I Earned This Divorce," Op-Ed, July 25) has no real problems to spend time on.

Solutions abound for her perceived predicament. Call the former partner "my ex" or "Mary (no venomous adjective attached)." Go to court for a decree dissolving the partnership — it is called a Marvin case in California.

The real problem is that there is no money or property to fight over, the downside of a short marriage to a nonrich person. Better luck next time.

Incidentally, you do not have to go to court to get that divorcin' feeling. Give a lot of money to someone you despise (the lawyer surrogate) and then roll on cut glass (the court surrogate).

RICHARD J. STALL JR.  
Los Angeles, July 25, 1996  
The writer is a lawyer.

July 28 1996



July 28, 1996

Failure

Foreign Affairs  
THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Who Did This?

WASHINGTON  
What is so frightening about the explosion of T.W.A. Flight 800, the U.S. barracks in Saudi Arabia and now the bomb at the Atlanta Olympics is that we seem to be dealing with a new kind of terrorist: "Anonymous" — the real Anonymous, the one who matters, the person who with a small pipe bomb or a single shoulder-held rocket can disturb the sleep of an entire globe, can jangle the nerves of governments high and mighty and yet prefers to savor it all alone — anonymously.

And what is doubly frightening is the thought of Anonymous operating in the information age. All he needs is a bomb in the right place — and the Internet, 500 cable channels, MSNBC, CNN and Sky Television will do the rest, carrying his deed to every corner of the globe in real time. And so from the remotest village in the Australian outback to the capitals of the world, everyone will know of Anonymous's work, everyone will be part of the reaction. The irony that we all know, and can all be unmoved by, an unknown terrorist is what really characterizes this new age. Never have more people been more fully informed, and more deeply rattled, by someone they cannot identify and for causes they don't know. When the crudest form of technology, a pipe bomb, can team up with the highest forms of technology, the information superhighway, and when the unknown can team up with the all-knowing, you have a very disturbing combination.

I did not read about the Atlanta bomb in my newspaper, or hear about it from television or radio. I got up Saturday morning, flipped on my computer and was about to read the Middle East news on the Internet when I came across the news from Atlanta on America Online.

"When World War I broke out, people spoke about 'The shot that was heard around the world.' That was a metaphor for the political significance of the assassination of the Archduke in Sarajevo, which started the war," said Stephen Cohen, a leading expert on conflict resolution. "But it was only a metaphor. Because that shot wasn't actually heard around the world. Now the shots are literally heard around the world; even if they have no political meaning. Now the sheer noise of violence is louder than any political message it might bear. The only message is fear."

Indeed, one of the ironies of this new age of terrorism is that even the terrorists are being drowned out by the noise they make. Why do they prefer to be anonymous? Because police technology is now so good, some terrorists prefer to do their deeds, enjoy the results and avoid responsibility or apprehension. But their desire to escape anonymously reduces their terrorism to little more than a cruel noise, which overwhelms any political motive they might have. It doesn't

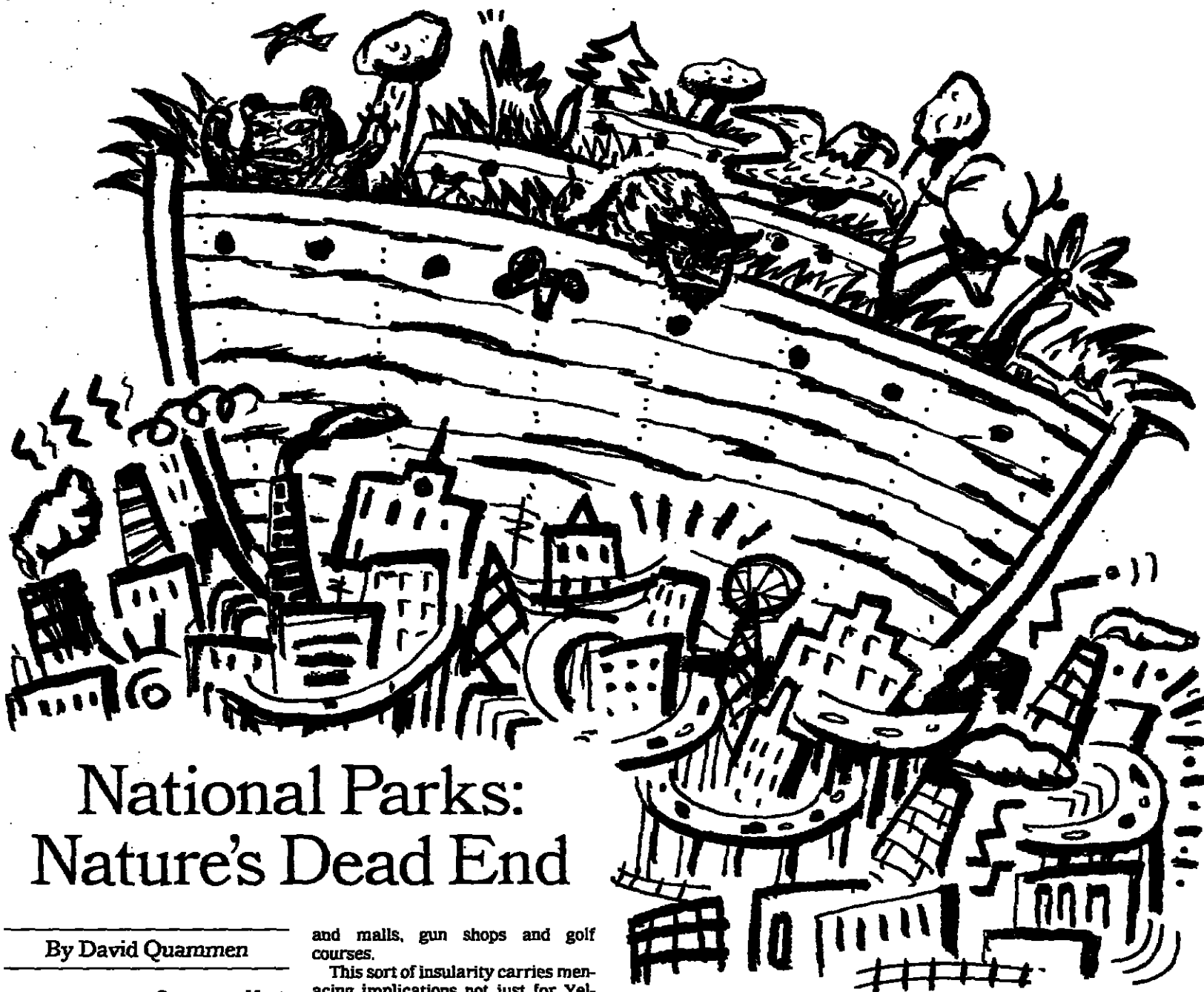
When terrorism dare not speak its name.

lead us to thinking about any problem, except terrorism. The Unabomber was anonymous until he could no longer stand that his purpose was hidden by the deafening noise of his bombs. So he published the manifesto that ultimately led police to his door.

And that's why even speculating about the meaning behind any of these acts of violence becomes very difficult — especially when the U.S. is involved. When you have terrorism in Belfast or Israel, everyone knows the motive. But when terrorism involves the U.S., motive becomes so much more difficult to sort out, because the U.S. is now such a global power that reaches into so many lives in so many corners of the world that the motive could be anything. Someone could be mad at McDonald's or Coca-Cola. Someone could be mad at how U.S. TV covered his country in the Olympics. Someone could be mad at Atlanta's Mayor. Someone could just be mad.

But sooner or later — maybe very soon — investigators will no doubt identify Anonymous in Atlanta and Long Island. Normally that would make us feel a bit more secure. If we can give a face and logic to an act, somehow it will make sense and thereby relieve anxiety. But the anxiety and loss of freedom triggered by these acts, even when the perpetrators are identified, will remain after their apprehension. Because that anxiety isn't just linked to the solving of a particular crime or political problem, but to our increased vulnerability generally. An anonymous terrorist with the right bomb in the right place can lower the quality of life for an entire globe.

To be a world-class Olympic athlete, you need to train for years to prepare your mind and body for the ultimate competition. To be a world-class, world-stalking terrorist now, you need only a pipe bomb, a bag and the World Wide Web. No name required.



National Parks:  
Nature's Dead End

By David Quammen

GARDINER, MONT.  
At the south edge of this little town, just across from the Yankee Jim Trading Post and the Bear Country Restaurant, stands a massive stone arch marking the north entrance of Yellowstone National Park. The cement plaque reads, "Created by Act of Congress March 1, 1872," testimony to the fact that here beyond lies a piece of demarcated terrain, 2.2 million acres of woodland and meadows and geyser basins, holding special status: the world's first national park. Almost 125 years later, it's still the most treasured square of more or less natural landscape on the continent, visited by several million tourists every summer.

Loiter beside that arch on a hot midsummer morning, and you can see them arriving — groups in tour buses, couples in Japanese sedans, families in station wagons with aluminum lawn chairs lashed to the roofs. They're all drawn here by the conviction that Yellowstone is something extraordinary, its attractions distinct from what can be seen in eastern Wyoming or along the interstate that leads to Salt Lake City. Still, not many of those visitors recognize, as they pass through the Gardiner gateway, that they're crossing into an island.

But they are. At least for some species — including the grizzly bear, most imposing of all the native fauna — Yellowstone is an insular world set apart from what surrounds it. The island at issue isn't Yellowstone proper, but a larger and more organic entity known as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The ecosystem encompasses both Yellowstone and Grand Teton parks, plus portions of seven national forests and more, constituting an amoeboid parcel of largely undeveloped landscape that totals more than 15 million acres. All around that parcel lies an ocean of human impact in the form of ranches and highways and towns, suburbs

David Quammen is author of "The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions."

and malls, gun shops and golf courses.

This sort of insularity carries menacing implications not just for Yellowstone but for every other parcel of protected natural landscape on the continent, from Baxter State Park in Maine to Joshua Tree National Monument in Southern California. Why menacing? Because insularity is conducive to extinction.

Islands are, all too often, where species and populations die. Call it the island syndrome. One authoritative tally offers these figures as a mere sampling: Within the past four centuries, 171 species and subspecies of bird have gone extinct; of those extinctions, 155 occurred on islands.

Like islands, they are places where species go to die.

That's 90 percent — despite the fact that only about 20 percent of the planet's bird species are island-dwellers. Clearly, island birds face a much higher probability of extinction than mainland birds do. It's true also among animals and plants overall: Island species are more readily extinguished than mainland species.

Why do island creatures go extinct? The reasons are complicated, but at their base lie two simple factors: population size and population fluctuation. All populations fluctuate in size, from year to year, in response to the good conditions (gentle weather, abundant food) and the bad conditions (drought, harsh winters, famine) they encounter; and small populations are more likely to fluctuate to zero when conditions are bad, since zero is never far away.

With less margin of security, a small population is also more vulnerable to the various forms of human persecution and natural catastrophe that can deliver a coup de grace. Therefore, small populations face a greater risk of extinction than big populations. And island populations — including those trapped within ecological islands, such as a park surrounded by development —

tend to be small.

Within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, for instance, there are no more than 300 or 400 grizzly bears, utterly isolated from grizzly populations elsewhere. Three hundred is probably too small for comfort, and so this Yellowstone population shares at least some of the jeopardy of the most famous of all extinct island birds, the dodo.

An important corollary of the island syndrome is that small islands generally support fewer species than big islands do. Why? Because they support bigger populations of each species, and therefore endure fewer extinctions. Biologists refer to that as the species-area relationship.

All of this carries implications, as I mentioned, for the national parks, designated wildernesses, wildlife reserves, and other forms of protected natural landscape set aside in our country or any other. One of the main premises behind establishing those parks and reserves is that, by protecting in perpetuity a patch of landscape, we can protect in perpetuity the ecological community within it. We can save species. But four decades of modern scientific thinking about the species-area relationship, combined with recent research by a fellow named William Newmark, suggest that such protection isn't necessarily perpetual.

Sometimes it's only temporary. Insularized populations go extinct, even when the island is protected by act of Congress. In a paper published in the journal Conservation Biology last year, Mr. Newmark reported that 29 mammal populations have disappeared from national parks in western North America due to no other factor than the island syndrome.

The red fox is missing from Bryce Canyon National Park in southern Utah. The mink is gone from Yosemite. The river otter, the spotted skunk and the ermine are absent from Crater Lake National Park in Oregon — not hunted out, not poisoned out, but apparently squeezed out by the sheer insularity of their situation. Mr. Newmark listed all 29 cases.

with documentation, and noted a telling pattern: the smaller the park, the more mammal species lost. His conclusion: "Areas considerably larger than most parks in western North America will need to be managed if the historical mammal faunal assemblages within the parks are to be reestablished."

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is one such larger area, and so far it seems to have suffered no island-syndrome losses. But the grizzly bear, with its big territorial demands and small population, is at risk. By the time your great-grandchildren visit Yellowstone, it could be gone.

Meanwhile, even the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grows ever smaller and more tattered. Timber sales reduce the wooded acreage of its national forests, a major gold mine is threatened just outside the park's northeast corner, and habitat is being lost to housing sprawl (in some cases, for environmentalists who insist on living "in the country") on private lands. As the Yellowstone island becomes smaller, the prognosis for the big bear becomes gloomier.

But it isn't just Yellowstone and it isn't just the grizzly. All over the world, the exigent needs and demands of people have left natural landscapes reduced and fragmented. Nature itself, in the form of richly diverse ecological communities, has been separated from humanity and compartmentalized, the compartments being those smallish reserves, refuges and national parks that we feel we can conveniently afford to set aside.

The minatory message of the species-area relationship, and of William Newmark's work, is that this approach won't do. For the long term, it won't work. Nature can't be compartmentalized. Nature isn't convenient. Nature is inherently big.

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Plagues, Comets, Values

HOLLYWOOD  
It's hard to tell who is more obsessed with disaster, Republicans or Hollywood executives. One group is scrambling to avoid it, while the other is scrambling to peddle it.

Michael Eisner is said to have a bad case of "Twister"-envy, and everybody else here is rushing around trying to rock the screen with a natural disaster or, better still, an unnatural one, caused by slimy, retro space aliens zapping Earth with blue beams.

We're talking floods, infernos, comets, collapsing tunnels and pestilence. We're talking earthquake-meets-volcano and spews hot lava on Beverly Hills boutiques.

"Somebody in a script meeting told me, 'We've finally figured out how to build a story line around meteorites,'" said Marty Kaplan, a screenwriter. He described one screenplay making the rounds, "10 Plagues," about a crusading district attorney who can handle the onslaught of locusts, floods and frogs, but gets upset at the prospect of the slaying of the first born, because that hits too close to home. (No doubt the studio would plan a Passover release.)

Hollywood and Republicans share the same problem: With the cold war over but millennium jitters upon us, new bad guys are required.

Hollywood is villainizing the weather, viruses and aliens.

Bob Dole is villainizing Hollywood. In the old days, candidates used to get money from Wall Street and attack Wall Street. Now they go to Hollywood for the same reasons — to court it for cash or attack it for trash.

Absent any other content to his Presidential race and unable to get any traction mocking Bill Clinton's character, Mr. Dole is returning to the theme of the last effective speech he made. Last summer, he came to a fund-raising dinner here and lashed the entertainment industry for producing sex-and-violence filled "nightmares of depravity."

At that time, Mr. Dole, a C-Span

Bob Dole's summer blockbuster?

devotee who is fuzzy on popular culture, conceded he had not seen movies he was criticizing or recommending. He made the mistake of citing Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger's "True Lies" — which had plenty of gunplay, not to mention a really creepy misogynist sex scene — as an example of a film with good values.

This time, Mr. Dole's staff is going to make sure he sees the movie before praising it. Accompanied by William Bennett, the values czar who has crusaded against gangsta rap and tawdry talk shows, Mr. Dole plans to attend a 3:30 P.M. showing of "Independence Day" tomorrow at Grauman's Chinese Theater on Hollywood Boulevard.

On Tuesday, according to his communications director, John Buckley, the candidate will give "Hollywood 2 — the sequel," a speech lambasting the movie industry for not making more "uplifting" movies like the alien invasion megahit. (Never mind the fact that about 700 million people get killed and every weapon in the U.S. arsenal is deployed. Never mind that the heroine is — once again — a stripper and that it is filled with 50's-style ethnic and gender stereotypes. Rather, let's focus on the John Wayne clarity and patriotism and the war hero President.)

The laconic Mr. Dole has formed a bond with the voluble Mr. Bennett, the former Education Secretary and drug czar who knows how to grab public attention on the spicy topic of restoring a sense of shame to society.

This partnership is working better than the Liddy-and-Bob Traveling Medicine Show. Mr. Dole spent a couple of weeks trying to use the same soft TV talk show format that worked so well for Mr. Clinton and his sax in the summer of '92, bringing along his wife, Elizabeth, to soften up his image. But she was "wound too tight," as one campaign aide conceded, especially after she could not intercede to save her husband from his weird confrontation with Katie Couric.

The candidate did a warm-up for his West Coast trip in his Republican radio address yesterday by attacking the entertainment, recording and fashion industries for "glamorizing drug use" and encouraging heroin chic. Noting that heroin use has skyrocketed, he bemoaned the deaths of River Phoenix and Kurt Cobain. When he got to the death of Smashing Pumpkins' Jonathan Melvoin, he unwittingly called him Michael.

But sides to Senator Dole, who have been fretting that the 73-year-old retired majority leader seemed culturally out of touch, were still excited that he actually spoke the words "Smashing Pumpkins." It was, they said, a breakthrough moment.

Appeasement as a Way of Life

By John R. Bolton

Our European allies are professing anger at a recent Congressional measure that would penalize any foreign company investing more than \$40 million a year in the Iranian or Libyan oil and gas industries. The Europeans appeal to "free trade," but they miss the point; this dispute goes far beyond economics. The real problem is that the West is divided and aimless in the face of real, direct and growing threats to the lives and security of its citizens. Although recent Congressional debate focused on Iran's and Libya's support for terrorism, the support of these and other nations for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, chemical and biological — is even more pressing. Congressional measures, however

John R. Bolton, president of the National Policy Forum, a Republican study organization, was an Assistant Secretary of State in the Bush Administration.

laudable, do not constitute adequate international leadership. That can come only from the President of the United States. So far, the field of battle is largely empty.

The supineness of our European allies toward Iran and Libya has been a painful thing to watch. Hugo Paemont, the European Union's representative in Washington, recently spoke of "countermeasures" against United States sanctions, but the real question is when the Europeans will take effective measures against the real enemy: outlaw regimes that threaten their national interests.

The Europeans oppose sanctions and other such "extraterritorial" measures, but they offer little to resolve the threat of mass destruction posed by Iran and Libya (and Iraq, Syria and North Korea). Citing the Iranian role in the recent exchange of Lebanese prisoners for the remains of Israeli soldiers, the Europeans argue that they have rendered Iran less dangerous by keeping up a "critical dialogue" with it and selling it high-technology equipment.

But this argument demonstrates only that some Europeans have never lost faith in appeasement as a way of life. It is clear that Iran is cynical

ly manipulating gullible (or equally cynical) Europeans to advance its development of weapons of mass destruction. Iran has made the "critical dialogue" an end in itself, and many Europeans have acquiesced in the charade for financial gain.

But Euroblindness is not the only problem, and perhaps not even the main one. No serious analyst expects the European Union to lead on this issue. Whatever the difficulty of defining American national interests, weapons proliferation offers a clear case for asserting Presidential leadership.

Populist pressures here have led Congress to take on part of the problem, terrorism, and it would be a short leap to the even greater issue of proliferation. Lawmakers like

Senator Alfonso M. D'Amato, seeing a dangerous vacuum of leadership, are seeking to fill it the only way Congress can, through legislation.

But what is really necessary here, Congress cannot do. Building an international coalition against the purveyors of terror and fearsome weapons requires Presidential leadership, persistence and determination. It means taking risky political positions, like whether (and when) to take military measures against the proliferators. It means undertaking the arduous work of wrenching reluctant allies into line.

It means leading an American public on an issue that now seems obscure, but that could quickly become tragically immediate. So far President Clinton has attended a substance-free summit meeting on terrorism, but he has not seriously confronted the Western allies, choosing instead to act as though the constitution left foreign affairs to Congress.

Directly opposing weapons proliferation and terrorism requires a long-term American commitment, starting at the top. For now, I'm not holding my breath. Neither are the Europeans.

Europe's blindness on Libya and Iran.







## Foreign Ministry takes a diplomatic approach

A GROUP of 27 young diplomats came away with a different vision of Israel recently, as they completed a three-week seminar aimed at helping them prepare for the next century.

Topics on the agenda for the diplomats — who came from such diverse countries as Fiji, Singapore, Ghana, Mexico and Lithuania — were the changing face of diplomacy in the 21st century, the Middle East peace process and learning more about Israel and the Jewish people. Along the way they also got a glimpse at the workings of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

"We are a young country and we don't have a very long tradition in diplomacy, but [because of] the intensity of our diplomacy in the past 40 years our diplomats are very experienced and can share that experience with others," said Yitzhak Eldan, head of the Foreign Ministry Department for Training and Human Resources Planning, which helped organize the program.

"Most of the participants were from small countries and wanted to see how a small foreign ministry deals with multilateral diplomacy," he added.

In addition, there were a number of brainstorming sessions held on topics such as the effect of a diplomatic career on family life, which gave Israeli participants a chance to hear new ideas, said Noach Gelber, who co-directed the seminar.

Several other countries have held workshops and seminars for young diplomats but this is the

JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

first time Israel has sponsored such a program. The Israeli Foreign Ministry came up with the idea last year after organizing a successful conference for directors of foreign ministries. It is doubtful whether such a seminar would have been possible before the peace process, which opened the doors to diplomatic relations with various countries, said Gelber. Now the ministry plans to make the young-diplomat workshop an annual program, as a way of improving connections and keeping up the momentum of diplomatic relations, he added.

"This view of Israel was new for the young diplomats," said Gelber. "Now they see it as more of a normal country, not just what they see in the news. These are people who will some day be in [influential] positions and at least when people speak of 'The Golan Heights' they will know what the Golan Heights really means."

Although public relations was not the purpose of the program, said Gelber, by simply doing a good job they were in fact showing the diplomats "Israel the Beautiful."

Indeed, many of the participants spoke of the importance of having explored Israel themselves and of having gained a better idea of the security issues involved in making peace.

"It has shown us close up the history and development of the peace process," said Jose Miguel Vasconez of the Foreign Ministry of Ecuador. "We now have an idea

of the complexity of the issues involved."

Avil Ramirez, director general of the Foreign Ministry of Nicaragua noted the significance of actually touring the country.

"Being in the Golan Heights, you realize the strategic importance for security, and being there you realize how important peace is," said Ramirez.

In addition to meeting with Israeli officials and specialists — including Israeli Arab leaders — the group met with Jordanian and Egyptian officials to discuss the peace process. Their meeting with Palestinian Authority officials was to have taken place on the same day, but a terrorist attack in the Jordan valley occurred and so it had to be canceled.

"Before I came here people told me the Israelis would try to brainwash me but there was no brainwashing," said Worwomyo Adogla, from Ghana. "If they had not brought Arab leaders to speak with us I would have thought they were trying to brainwash us, but now I have seen and can think for myself."

The issue of peace was only one part of the program and many of the participants said they had come in order to exchange ideas with colleagues about the new role of diplomats in the post-Cold War world.

"We have a changing world situation now," said Adogla. "Diplomats now need to be involved in environmental, economic, and technological issues. A diplomat has to have administrative as well as negotiating skills."

In addition, she said, as new



## Passing the toxic buck

EARTHLY CONCERNS  
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THE disposal of toxic waste in Israel has been a serious problem for a very long time. Over the past few years, there has been a significant improvement in controlling waste, but it is still far from satisfactory.

Five years ago, thousands of tons of toxic waste that were known to have been produced by industry failed to reach the country's toxic waste disposal facility at Ramat Hovav in the Negev.

Today, virtually all toxic waste from industry is accounted for. However, the toxic waste site itself is now almost as big a problem as the one it was designed to solve.

Twenty years' worth of backlogged materials sit in often-leaking containers at the site.

The poisonous materials that seep into the soil are a threat to the Negev Aquifer and a potential health hazard to communities several kilometers away.

This year, at long last, an incinerator capable of handling toxic waste will be installed at the site. But even with the incinerator working maximum capacity it will require several years to clean up the backlog, not to mention the hundreds of tons that arrive every year. It is obvious that the facility's capacity needs to be enlarged.

While much improvement has been seen in the collection of toxic waste from industry, toxic waste from agriculture and from households and small businesses has hardly been addressed.

Public-spirited citizens sometimes save used batteries that pollute the groundwater with metals such as nickel, cadmium and lithium, but once they have collected them no one in the govern-

ment seems to be able to arrange any transport to the toxic waste dump. Citizens are advised to "Just throw them in the garbage."

Organization is needed to ensure the disposal of batteries, paint, solvents, used motor oil, pesticide containers, and left-over pesticides at a facility.

Another source of toxic waste pollution is in the agricultural sector.

Part of the problem is that responsibility for pesticides is divided among the Agriculture, Health, Transport and Labor and Social Affairs ministries. As a result, no one is really in charge or very much responsible for the problem. A simple walk down the wadis will quickly prove to anyone that far too many kibbutzim and moshavim still toss away old pesticide barrels and containers, sometimes with several liters of leftover poison.

In this sector, a lot more needs to be done. Indeed, tests on water supplies have repeatedly shown that the quality of our drinking water is not good and is getting worse.

As for Ramat Hovav, it's a long way from where most of us live and perhaps so are the pesticide laden wadis and the leaking garbage dumps that drain heavy metals into the soil.

But our drinking water comes a long way before we get it, picking up contamination on the way. It is high time that the government paid some attention to this vital fact.

But now, since the Environment Ministry is just a poor satellite of the Agriculture Ministry, we are even lacking the strident environmental voice that inveighs against these practices.

## Defendants granted the right not to attend trial

In the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, before the President Justice Aharon Barak, and Justices Mishael Cheshin and Dalia Dornier, in the matter of Berkey Pathe Humphries (Israel) Ltd., and others, petitioners, versus the State of Israel and others, respondents (H.C.7357/95, 1479/96).

THE petitioners are being tried with others in the Tel-Aviv Magistrates' Court on several complicated charges, involving the testimony of 48 witnesses for the prosecution alone. The court fixed the hearings for three times a week, warning the defendants of their duty to appear.

The petitioners, all represented by counsel, moved the court to release them from appearing on the grounds that their attendance was unnecessary, and would seriously interfere with their business affairs.

The court dismissed the application on the ground that the legislature drew no distinction between "white collar" defendants and others who had to live on a "bare daily wage". It added that it would consider any properly grounded application for a defendant's release from a particular session, or some sessions, presented timely. The petitioners then applied to the Supreme Court, sitting as a High Court of Justice, to grant their request.

JUSTICE DORNER delivered the first judgment of the court. The petitioners submitted, she said, that a defendant was not required to attend his trial unless it was necessary as, for example, for purposes of identification. Alternatively, they argued that they should be released from attending in the present case.

The respondents contended that the defendant's attendance was for the court to decide; moreover, where the image of justice demanded he sit on the defendants' bench, he should not be released from doing even if his absence would not impair his defence. The defendant had a basic right to attend

### LAW REPORT ASHER FELIX LANDAU

his trial, she continued, and the public interest also demanded his so doing. The questions arose whether he was entitled to waive this right and, if his so doing required the court's consent, what criteria were to be applied.

His right and duty to attend, she said, were laid down in section 126 of the Criminal Procedure Law (Consolidated Version) of 1982, under which no person shall be criminally tried in his absence "save as otherwise provided in this Law." Section 128 permitted his absence if, inter alia, he so requested and was represented by counsel, and, in the court's opinion, a trial in his absence would cause him no injustice. Citing precedents, she held it was clearly for the court to decide as to the defendant's attendance.

Section 128 struck a balance between the defendant's waiving his basic right to attend his trial (see Kestenbaum's case-C.A. 294/91, *The Jerusalem Post* of May 11, 1992) and the public interest in his attendance to enable the prosecution to prove its case (for example, in regard to identification) and, in the main, to ensure the defendant's fair trial. It was for the court to find that balance.

The respondents' submission requiring the petitioners to sit on the defendants' bench to preserve the "image of justice" was unacceptable. The defendant's basic right to make his choice was enshrined in section 5 of the Basic Law: The Dignity and Freedom of Man, of 1992. That right could only be denied in a Law befitting the State's values, for a worthy purpose, and only to the extent necessary. Citing, inter alia, Miller's case (H.C.4541/94 — *The Post* of November 20, 1995), she held that sections 126 and 128 above fulfilled these requirements. The above right was enjoyed equally by all defen-

dants — rich and poor alike.

She added that a defendant represented by competent counsel was presumed to enjoy adequate protection. In the absence, therefore, of a contrary indication, his application to be excused attendance should be granted unless the circumstances demanded otherwise.

She proposed, therefore, that the petitions be allowed, and the case be remitted to the Magistrates Court to be reconsidered on the basis of the above principles.

JUSTICE CHESHIN concurred. The magistrate, he said, was right in considering the important feature of the "image of justice" in her decision. However, he rejected that factor as a separate element in the present context only for the reason that, objectively, sections 126 and 128 provided the necessary balance for protecting the rights of both the defendant and the prosecution. The demands of justice, therefore, were fully satisfied.

He was wary, he added, of the tendency to cite the Basic Law: The Dignity and Freedom of Man, at every possible opportunity, emphasizing that it was designed to test the validity of later statutes. Citing Genimaa's case (M.A.(C) 537/95, and F.H.(C) 2316/95 — *The Post* of December 11, 1995) he agreed it could be invoked in interpreting prior Laws where such a problem arose, but sections 126 and 128 presented no such difficulties. Unnecessary and improper reliance on Basic Laws could result in weakening their real value and significance.

JUSTICE BARAK also concurred with Justice Dornier. Citing many Israeli and other precedents and legal texts, he emphasized it was not only the defendant's duty, but also his right, to attend his trial. He could waive

his right, but the safeguards provided in section 8 of the above Basic Law, and those laid down in sections 126 and 128 of the Criminal Procedure Law, were the demands of society, irrespective of the defendant's wishes. Only the court, therefore, was empowered to find the proper balance between the several interests involved.

Dealing with upholding a constitutional right, and citing the Bank Mizrahi case (C.A.6821/93), the *Post* of January 8, 1996, he held that requiring a defendant to sit on the defendants' bench was not a proper demand in the public interest. A criminal trial was designed to discover the truth and not to demean the defendant.

The President then cited several examples illustrating the many acceptable reasons why a defendant could wish to be excused from attendance. In his view, a defendant's wish to prevent the collapse of his business, an interest connected with his basic right of occupation, should be protected by the court.

Citing Genimaa's case (F.H.2316/95, above), he then asserted that the Basic Laws protecting human rights created a new normative reality in Israeli law, felt particularly in criminal law and procedure. They were often quoted out of context, but were of great importance in interpreting other Laws. He agreed with Justice Cheshin as to the danger of relying upon them unduly. However, as happened also with the Contracts (General Part) Law of 1993, which was also received with great suspicion, the Basic Laws would eventually find their proper place in Israeli jurisprudence.

For the above reasons, the petitions were allowed, and an order made as proposed by Justice Dornier.

Ze'ev Sharf, Sharon Hal-Gilad and Pinhas Gladkov appeared for the petitioners, and Nava Ben Or, Director of the Criminal Division of the State Attorney's Office, appeared for the State.

The judgment was given on June 25, 1996.

## Japan's 'fiery horses' charge into 21st century

NAOMI doesn't look like a man-eater. Yet because she was born in 1966, the Year of the Fiery Horse, Japanese tradition says she is destined to devour her husband and bring bad luck and conflagrations to any house unlucky enough to receive her as a bride.

"Certainly this is something that comes up when it's time to get married. You know any prospective husband's family will mention it," she said.

Naomi, and around a million other hapless young Japanese, share the fate of having been born in the unluckiest year of the Japanese zodiac, a 60-year cycle that combines the 12-year animal zodiac of China with the five elements of wood, water, earth, metal (gold), and fire.

Adding the traits ascribed to each animal with the properties ascribed to each element yields a detailed, and complicated, reading of each year.

The Fiery Horse Year, or "Hinoeuma," has fire as its element, summer as its season, red as its color, and the horse as its animal. Over time, this came to be seen as a year of fire and calamity, with people born in it strong-willed and occasionally violent, like their animal namesake.

In contrast, while 1996 is the "Year of the Fire Mouse" and shares many of the same properties, possible disaster is neutralized by the timid nature of its guiding animal. "Whenever I have a disagreement with anybody, especially at work, you can always bet that

my boss will say, 'Of course, you're Hinoeuma.'" Naomi said.

Being born as a Fiery Horse is little more than a curiosity for men. Although in some rural areas of Japan they are said to be ridiculous and easily confused, more widespread belief has it that they may be more successful than average.

Even so, when the fire year last rolled around in 1966, Japanese parents appear to have done their utmost to avoid burdening their children with this stigma. The overall birth rate plunged to around 1.36 million from 1.82 million the year before, then surged to 1.94 million in 1967, according to Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry.

The youngest herd of Fiery Horses is rebelling against the dark image of their birth. "Because fewer people were born then, I actually feel like some kind of special, limited-edition goods," one man said.

Most agreed, noting that their smaller numbers had eased competition in school entrance exams and job hunting.

The Association's opening meeting, held recently in a computer venue in downtown Tokyo, could hardly have been more modern, or more ordinary.

Many sat mesmerized in front of computer terminals, surfing the Internet or studying the "Hinoeuma Homepage," which debuted recently in both English and Japanese.

For Hinoeuma women, the curse seems to be fading. Several used the meeting to announce autumn weddings. (Reuter)

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, July 29, 1996

## Bank workers to discuss strike possibility

THE heads of all of the major banks' workers' unions are scheduled to meet today to decide whether to engage in a general strike to protest United Mizrahi Bank's firing of the four workers' representatives responsible for a newspaper advertisement calling on customers to withdraw their deposits from the bank.

Meanwhile, 2,200 UMB workers will continue the strike they began yesterday. The workers are striking in response to the layoff of 250 workers and the standstill in negotiations with the bank's management regarding organizational changes, personal contracts and a wage agreement for 1995.

At the end of last week, UMB management sent dismissal letters to 250 workers, including four representatives of the workers' committee, and decided to go ahead

with its reorganization program. Management said the letters were sent last week after an advertisement in the *Harzofeh* Zionist-religious daily, which many of the bank's veteran customers read regularly, urged customers to withdraw their deposits from the bank "before it is too late." The ad alleged management created a situation "which may result in the bank's closure."

A UMB spokesperson said the bank is willing to cancel 246 of the letters of dismissal, on the condition that the workers' committee admits submitting the ad was a mistake, halts the strike at the bank and agrees not to engage in sanctions during negotiations. However, the spokesperson said management would not reverse its

decision to fire the heads of the workers' committee.

The bank fired workers' committee chairman Sara Leizerovitz and three other representatives responsible for the publication of the advertisement.

In reaction, Leizerovitz, who continues to serve as head of the workers' committee, said the firings were illegal, and dismissed outright management's proposal to return to the negotiating table.

"It is illegal to fire a member of the workers' committee during a strike," she said. "We will not return to work until an agreement is reached. Every attempt to open the bank without reaching an agreement is irresponsible. The customers are worried and

are likely to withdraw large funds, and thus lead to the collapse of the bank."

The workers' committee intends to hold an explanatory meeting for the workers today and to discuss future measures.

In an attempt to reduce some of the damage to customers, UMB management has opened a telephone hotline - (03)-567-9520 - so customers can request information.

The Bank of Israel's Supervisor of Bank's Ze'ev Abeles said that while it is not the central bank's responsibility to intervene in disputes of this kind, "if the workers continue to engage in sanctions the central bank will have no option but to intervene in order to prevent legal complaints" against the bank, in which the Yuli Ofer and Muzi Wertheim group has recently bought a controlling share.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Tempo Ltd. will begin running the Soldiers' Association's lottery, according to a recently signed agreement between the two parties.**

The agreement, which will expire at the end of 1999, gives Tempo full control of printing, distributing and marketing the lottery cards, as well as distributing the prizes. In exchange, the Soldiers' Association will receive progressive royalties.

*Jennifer Friedlin*

**Fifty-eight discharged soldiers and officers, including four colonels, were absorbed into the industrial sector in the first half of 1996, a 23 percent increase compared to the same period one year ago, the Industrialists' Association recently reported.**

Spokesmen from the association attributed the growth to a joint effort between the IDF and the association to direct discharged soldiers and officers to jobs in the industrial sector.

Since 1991 approximately 1,000 discharged soldiers have found work in industry.

*Jennifer Friedlin*

**Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan said yesterday that his ministry will "subvert" the government's proposed efforts to raise water prices for farmers.**

Eitan said he will consider a rise in the price of pure spring water only if the price of sewage water is reduced to "almost nothing."

The government has proposed increasing water prices by seven to 15 agorot per cubic meter of fresh water and seven to nine agorot for treated sewage water.

*Jennifer Friedlin*

## Market waits for today's interest rates announcement

THE Bank of Israel is to announce its monthly monetary policy today, amid unprecedented pressure from business circles, market activists and politicians on Governor Jacob Frenkel to reduce interest rates.

Last month, in response to new indications of inflationary pressures, the central bank stunned many observers when it raised its short-term lending rate by 150 basis points, setting its basic price of credit at 17 percent.

Since then Frenkel's tight-money policy has been attacked, at times viciously, by a colorful coalition ranging from industrialists, like Koor CEO Benjamin Gaon, to champions of the underprivileged classes, like Foreign Minister David Levy, and from

**DAVID HARRIS and Jerusalem Post Staff**

Labor leaders, like former finance minister Avraham Shohat, to Likud MK Silvan Shalom.

Pressure on Frenkel accelerated in the wake of the recent turbulence in the bond market, which compelled the governor to intervene in trading by introducing the so-called "safety net" mechanism, by which the central bank buys surplus government bonds.

Meanwhile, the newly formed Treasury committee for structural changes in the capital markets will meet twice this week to formulate a long-term plan to bolster the markets.

The committee, headed by

Finance Ministry director-general David Brodet, is calling on any body with a particular interest or view to submit its opinions and recommendations on paper by August 6. Some of the respondents will be asked to appear before the committee in the coming weeks.

Its first meeting, held on Friday, lasted three hours, with the group deciding on a plan of action.

In addition to the capital markets, the committee will also consider structures for savings in the economy, incentives for and taxation of savings and policy formation for the money, capital and foreign currency markets.

Its recommendations must be submitted to Finance Minister Dan Meridor by September 12.

## Union Bank launches foreign residents service

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNION Bank has entered the international private banking field with the establishment of two centers, in Tel Aviv and Netanya, to serve the needs of foreign residents.

Yitzhak Merin was appointed to head the division, which will operate with the assistance of sophisticated international data communication systems.

Noam Pintov, deputy general manager of the bank, said the centers are intended to offer foreign residents maximum investment opportunities in international markets, as well as portfolio management and exclusive credit cards. The bank intends to set up a mutual fund specifically for foreign residents once the capital market picks up.

"The services will be provided at full discretion. We will offer credit for real estate and other investments in Israel and also other financial services," he said.

The opening of the two centers is in the framework of Union Bank's strategy to compete in the private banking field, a sector which over the last few years has become popular with all of the local banks.

Pintov said the bank would compete with the large banks "both in type of services provided and professionally."

Union Bank recently opened a center in Tel Aviv to offer local residents private banking services.

## Tourism, exports, retail sales slow in May-June

DAVID HARRIS

RETAIL sales, exports, and tourism in May and June all point to a further slowdown in the economy, according to figures published by the Central Bureau for Statistics yesterday.

Among its bi-monthly indicators, the CBS reported growth in retail sales shrank to an annual rate of 4 percent to 5%, compared to 10% to 13% in the previous two months and 15% to 17% between November and February.

Similarly, exports, excluding diamonds, remained largely unchanged from March to June after an increase between September and February.

The number of tourists arriving by air has been falling since December, with the number of tourist nights dropping since January.

The trade deficit for June, excluding diamonds, gasoline, ships, and airplanes, was almost unchanged at some \$760 million, that after a fall in April and May.

There was also a slowdown in investment in capital goods, to an annual rate of 9%, from 10% to 11% in March and April. From July to December, the figure reached 20% to 23%.

Construction materials registered a 14% drop in growth between March and May, compared to the same period in 1995.

Industrial production bucked the trend somewhat between March and May, with an annual growth rate of 3% to 4%, similar

to production in the previous eight months. Industrial exports registered a 2% increase in May and June, following a slowdown since February.

*Galit Lipkis Beck adds:*

The Purchasing Managers' Index for June has increased to 51.3%, similar to the index registered in February, Dun & Bradstreet (DB) and the Association of Purchasing Managers announced yesterday.

The companies said the rise was mainly due to seasonal factors. DB said the index reflects an increase in local market consumption, especially in food and summer products like air-conditioners.

The index is calculated according to ten components which are calculated as a percentage. A result above 50% reflects an improvement in performance, while a result below reflects a worsening in performance compared with the previous month.

The rise in the June index reflected an increase in production output, which rose to 55.7% compared with 50% last month. The higher index also reflected an increase in supply of raw materials, to 50% compared with 47.4% in May.

According to DB, the rise in production output was accompanied by a rise in local market orders. But, foreign customer orders continued to suffer, falling to 47.4% compared with 64.5% in January.

## Sharansky leaves for US on first ministerial overseas visit

DAVID HARRIS

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky left for the US last night for his first overseas visit as minister.

During the tour of the US and Canada, Sharansky will complete negotiations on a free-trade agreement with Canada. The pact will come into force in January. Talks between the states began in 1994, as the parties became increasingly aware of the mutual business potential. Under the agreement, virtually all trade of industrial products will be tax free. Current bilateral trade stands at some \$330 million annually. Businessmen in both countries say that could reach \$1 billion by the year 2000.

While in the US, Sharansky will participate in detailed trade talks. These will include discussions with senior government officials

on free-trade agreements between the Palestinian autonomous areas and the US.

Other issues that both sides have agreed to consider are customs users fees, government purchases and import/export regulations.

In Washington, Sharansky will continue the negotiations on an agriculture agreement begun in 1993.

The minister will meet the president of the World Bank, with whom he will discuss the possibility of increasing Israel's involvement with the bank's activities. He will also propose an education-based project in which Israel would take a lead.

During the visit, Sharansky will head the fifth biannual meeting of the US-Israel Science and Technology Commission, also in Washington.

## Farmers group attacks gov't agriculture policy

DAVID HARRIS

AGRICULTURE Center director-general Simha Assaf attacked the government's economic plan for the sector at the weekend. The cabinet-approved budget cuts for 1996 and 1997 indicate the government believes that by reducing the number of farmers, wages in the sector will begin to rise, said Assaf.

"In 1987 there were 53,000 employees in agriculture. Now that figure stands at 30,000, with wages continuing to fall. This policy is a terrible blunder," he concluded.

## Nesher opens new Ramle cement plant despite slowdown

Jerusalem Post Staff

NESHER, the country's sole producer of cement and a wholly owned subsidiary of Mashav, has invested \$18 million in the construction of a new cement production facility at its factory in Ramle, despite the current slowdown in infrastructure projects.

Yesterday, the company reported it has completed construction of the facility, which has an annual production capacity of one million tons of cement. The new facility will increase Nesher's total cement production to seven million tons a year.

Nesher general manager Yitzhak Davidi said the new facility is intended to supply all local demand for cement in the coming years. He said management decided to go ahead with plans for the facility in expectation of receiving a "record quantity of orders," despite the temporary slowdown in demand. The drop in demand led to a 5.6 percent erosion in cement prices in the first quarter. Nesher's sales are affected directly by the level of construction.

The cement facility was purchased from F.L.S., a Danish company which is considered among the most advanced in planning and establishment of facilities of this kind in the world.

Nesher operates cement plants in Haifa, Ramle, and Har Tuv and is also engaged in imports. Mashav, its parent company, is jointly owned by Clal and Koor.

## Silicom's second quarter net income up

Success attributed to increased exports

COMPANY RESULTS  
JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

SILICOM Ltd.'s (Nasdaq) second-quarter net income jumped to \$141,000 compared with \$2,000 in the same period last year, the company announced yesterday. Second-quarter sales also soared, rising 72% to \$1.37m, from \$797,000.

Spokesmen at the Kfar Sava-based company attributed the results to Silicom's having boosted sales in Europe and the US by beating the competition in bringing out the latest in high-speed connectivity products for linking portable computers to local area networks. The company's latest PC Ethernet card, which works at 100 megabits per second, is 10 times faster than its market predecessor, said Michael Cohen, the company's financial manager.

"Silicom has come out with a couple of innovative cards and we were the first out" with them, Cohen said. "Even though some of the competition has come out with some of the same [products] now as well, it's very good to be recognized as having been the first. It's good for a couple of bonus points."

The company, founded in 1987, is engaged in the design, manufacture, marketing and support of modular, miniature connectivity products which combine hardware and software to enable portable computers, including notebook, laptop and hand-held computers, to interface with LANs.

## FIBI to buy NIS 50m. in indexed gov't bonds

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

FIRST International Bank will hold a tender for the purchase from the public of NIS 50 million worth of index-linked state bonds today.

This is the first time that any bank has invited the public to participate in a tender to sell its bonds. The tender is similar to the Bank of Israel's security net measure, which is based on the discriminating tender method.

The central bank's security net, which involves the purchase of inflation-linked bonds, was first introduced last week in an attempt to moderate the exceptional fluctuations in bond prices on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The bank said it will accept offers for the sale of Galil and Sagi bonds with a two- to four-year redemption period. The offers can be made until midday today.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patish (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.6.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.825	4.875	5.375	
British sterling (£100,000)	4.000	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.875	1.875	2.375	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.000	1.000	1.500	
Yen (10 million yen)				

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (26.7.96)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.1477	3.5998	3.08	3.24	3.1880
German mark	2.1280	2.1824	2.00	2.20	2.1483
French franc	4.8910	4.9689	4.80	5.04	4.9307
Japanese yen (100)	0.6264	0.6388	0.61	0.65	0.6325
Swedish krona	2.8847	2.8414	2.84	2.89	2.8205
Norwegian krona	1.8545	1.9251	1.88	1.98	1.8712
Danish krona	2.6072	2.6483	2.59	2.65	2.6290
Swiss franc	0.4781	0.4869	0.48	0.50	0.4820
Australian dollar	0.4941	0.5021	0.48	0.51	0.4884
S. African rand	0.5513	0.5802	0.54	0.57	0.5582
Belgian franc (10)	0.7012	0.7128	0.69	0.73	0.7068
Austrian schilling (10)	2.2840	2.3208	2.24	2.25	2.3029
Italian lire (1000)	2.4748	2.5148	2.43	2.45	2.4946
Spanish peseta (100)	0.7052	0.7188	0.63	0.72	0.6825
Irish punt	1.0518	1.0485	1.01	1.07	1.0408
Portuguese escudo (10)	3.0237	3.0723	2.97	3.12	3.0510
Japanese yen (100)	2.0627	2.0960	2.02	2.07	2.0801
Israeli shekel	4.3700	4.5700	4.37	4.57	4.5144
Israeli shekel (100)	0.8500	0.8700	0.89	0.87	0.8742
Israeli shekel (100)	3.9881	4.0686	3.98	4.05	4.0305
Israeli shekel (100)	6.0885	5.1718	5.00	5.25	5.1247
Israeli shekel (100)	2.5030	2.5434	2.46	2.58	2.5255

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

02-244-963







# Bailey sets world mark in 100m

## OLYMPICS ROUNDUP

ATLANTA (AP) - Spurred on by determination that terrorist bombers must not win, the Olympics went ahead Saturday. The immediate reward was a world record 100-meter run of 9.84 seconds by Canada's Donovan Bailey.

But before Bailey claimed the title of world's fastest human, a capacity crowd of 85,000 in Olympic Stadium saw defending champion Linford Christie of Britain disqualified for two false starts. The race started seven minutes late after Christie at first refused to leave the track.

The enthusiastic crowd also saw a photo finish in the women's 100, with defending gold medalist Gail Devers edging Jamaica's Merlene Ottey and American teammate Gwen Torrence. Devers and Ottey both were timed in 10.94 and Torrence in 10.96. Before Devers, the last woman to repeat as Olympic 100 champion was Wynonia Tyus in 1964-68.

Another of the day's winners was British rower Steven Redgrave, who became only the fourth athlete to capture gold medals at four straight games.

Redgrave won his race while rain and heavy clouds were adding to the gloom after a bomb killed one person and injured more than 100 early Saturday in a downtown park meant to bring the fun and spirit of the Atlanta Games to everyone. A Turkish television cameraman died of a heart attack while running to film the explosion's aftermath.

Quickly, heavily armed soldiers were deployed at competition sites. Tougher security checks caused delays and long lines as spectators put aside their fears and came out anyway. Patrols gave



Gail Devers of the US (right) storms across the finish line first, followed by Jamaican Merlene Ottey (center). Mary Onyali (left) finished seventh in a closely-contested 100m race Saturday. (AP)

extra scrutiny to suspicious objects reported at various places around the city.

But there was general agreement with the decision that the games should go on.

Back at the main stadium, Bailey broke the 100-meter record of 9.85 set by American Leroy Burrell in 1994.

Bailey, a Canadian born in Jamaica, overtook Frankie

Fredericks of Namibia, who took his second consecutive Olympic silver medal in 9.89. Ato Boldon of Trinidad and the bronze in 9.90.

American Kenny Harrison set an Olympic record of 18.09m in winning the triple jump gold medal. Britain's Jonathan Edwards, the world record holder, won silver with 17.88.

With their two track and field golds Saturday, the Americans led

the overall gold standings with 18. Russia had 14 after weightlifter Alexei Petrov's victory in the 91-kilogram division.

Petrov had won the 1995 world championships, but then tested positive for a banned substance. His lifetime suspension was lifted after a former girlfriend confessed to slipping the substance into his food.

France had 10 golds thanks to three Saturday.

## Israelis at the Olympics

WEIGHTLIFTER Vacislav Ivanovsky failed to advance in the 99kg category yesterday when he missed lifting 175kg in the snatch after three attempts.

Windsurfer Gal Friedman, who began the day third overall, was scheduled to compete yesterday in Savannah. However, the event was delayed by a lack of wind in the afternoon, and no results were available as we went to press. *Post Sports Staff*

### Olympic Medals Table Through Saturday

	G	S	B	Tot
United States	18	20	7	45
Russia	14	10	6	30
France	10	5	12	27
China	9	7	6	22
Australia	9	7	10	26
Italy	7	5	9	18
Poland	7	4	3	12
Germany	6	10	15	28
Cuba	4	2	5	11
Hungary	4	2	5	11
Japan	4	4	2	10
South Korea	4	4	2	10
New Zealand	4	1	1	6
Ireland	4	0	0	4
Turkey	4	0	0	4
Canada	3	0	0	3
Belgium	3	0	0	3
Ukraine	3	0	0	3
South Africa	2	0	0	2
Brazil	1	1	1	3
Belarus	1	3	2	6
Romania	1	2	2	5
Britain	1	2	2	5
Greece	1	2	0	3
Kazakhstan	1	2	0	3
Finland	1	2	0	3
Czech Republic	1	1	1	3
Denmark	1	1	1	3
Slovakia	1	1	1	3
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	2
Armenia	1	0	0	1
Silber-Cao Mianying and Zhang Xuyun, China	1	0	0	1
BRONZE-Irene Erika and Erika van Nes, Netherlands	1	0	0	1
SHOOTING				
Norway	0	1	1	2
Sweden	0	1	0	1
Japan	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	1	0	1
Netherlands	0	0	1	1
Denmark	0	0	1	1
Georgia	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
North Macedonia	0	0	1	1
Trinidad-Tobago	0	0	1	1

## SATURDAY'S OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

- ATHLETICS**
- Men 100: GOLD-Donovan Bailey, Canada; SILVER-Frank Fredericks, Namibia; BRONZE-Ato Boldon, Trinidad
  - Triple Jump: GOLD-Kenny Harrison, United States; SILVER-Jonathan Edwards, Britain; BRONZE-Yoshiyuki Yamaoka, Japan
  - Women 100: GOLD-Gail Devers, United States; SILVER-Merlene Ottey, Jamaica; BRONZE-Gwen Torrence, United States
  - Javelin: GOLD-Heli Rantanen, Finland; SILVER-Louise McPaul, Australia; BRONZE-Triina Hatanpaa, Finland
- BEACH VOLLEYBALL**
- Women: GOLD-Jackie Silve and Sandra Pires, Brazil; SILVER-Monica Rodrigues and Adriana Samuel, Brazil; BRONZE-Natalie Cook and Kerri Pottharst, Australia
- CANOE-KAYAK**
- Slalom Men Canoe Singles: GOLD-Michal Marikan, Slovakia; SILVER-Lukas Peller, Czech Republic; BRONZE-Fabrice Estroff, France
  - Women Kayak Singles: GOLD-Stepanka Hagarova, Czech Republic; SILVER-Dana Chadek, United States; BRONZE-Hytlem Fox-Jenssen, France

- CYCLING**
- Men Team Pursuit: GOLD-France; SILVER-Russia; BRONZE-Australia
  - Women Sprint: GOLD-Falicia Ballanger, France; SILVER-Michelle Ferris, Australia; BRONZE-Ingrid Harington, Netherlands
  - Diving Women Platform: GOLD-Fu Mingxia, China; SILVER-Jantia Walter, Germany; BRONZE-Mary Ellen Clark, United States
- ROWING**
- Men Coxless Pair: GOLD-Steven Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, Britain; SILVER-David Weightman and Robert Scott, Australia; BRONZE-Michel Andrieux and Jean-Christophe Rolland, France
  - Coxless Four: GOLD-Australia; SILVER-France; BRONZE-Britain
  - Single Sculls: GOLD-Yano Muehle, Switzerland; SILVER-Lukas Peller, Czech Republic; BRONZE-Thomas Lehmann, Germany
  - Double Sculls: GOLD-Davide Tizzano and Agostino Abbagnano, Italy; SILVER-Kjetil Undset and Steffen Storseth, Norway

- Norway: BRONZE-Frederic Kowal and Samuel Barathay, France
  - Women Coxless Pair: GOLD-Megan Still and Kate Stutter, Australia; SILVER-Missy Schwen and Karen Kraft, US; BRONZE-Christine Gosse and Helene Cortin, France
  - Men Sculls: GOLD-Yekaterina Khodotovich, Belarus; SILVER-Silvan Luumann, Canada; BRONZE-Triina Hansen, Denmark
  - Double Sculls: GOLD-Marcie McEben and Kathleen Hedde, Canada; SILVER-Cao Mianying and Zhang Xuyun, China; BRONZE-Irene Erika and Erika van Nes, Netherlands
- SHOOTING**
- Men Steel: GOLD-Ennio Falco, Italy; SILVER-Miroslaw Rapskiowski, Poland; BRONZE-Andreas Kober, Italy
  - Small-Bore Rifle 3-Position: GOLD-Jean-Pierre Amat, France; SILVER-Sergey Belov, Kazakhstan; BRONZE-Wolfgang Walzel Jr., Austria
- WEIGHTLIFTING**
- 91kg (200.5 pounds): GOLD-Alexey Petrov, Russia; SILVER-Lesdian Koles, Greece; BRONZE-Oliver Caruso, Germany

## YESTERDAY AT ATLANTA

**Two athletes stripped of medals**  
Two Russian athletes were stripped of their medals in swimming and wrestling after testing positive for drugs, the International Olympic Committee said.

Andrei Korneev, bronze medalist in swimming's 200-meter breaststroke, was disqualified after testing positive for the banned stimulant bromantane. Zafar Gouleviev, a Greco-Roman wrestler who won bronze in the 48-kilogram class, tested positive for the same substance and also was disqualified. AP

**Denmark wins gold in rowing event**  
Denmark won the Olympic gold medal in men's lightweight coxless fours with a time of 6 minutes, 9.58 seconds.

Canada won the silver in 6:10.13. The bronze went to the United States in 6:12.29. AP

**Swiss, Romanians tops in double sculls**  
Michael Gier and Markus Gier of Switzerland won the gold medal in the men's lightweight double sculls in 6 minutes, 23.47 seconds.

Maarten van der Linden and Peppin Aardewijn of the Netherlands won the silver in 6:26.48. The bronze went to Anthony Edwards and Bruce Hick of Australia in 6:26.69.

In the women's lightweight double sculls, Constantina Burcica and Camelia Macovicu of Romania won the gold medal with a time of 7:12.78. Teresa Z. Bell and Lindsay Burns of the United States won the silver in 7:14.65. The bronze went to Rebecca Joyce and Virginia Lee of Australia in 7:16.56. AP

**Germany No. 1 in quad sculls**  
Germany won the gold medal in men's quadruple sculls with a time of 5 minutes, 56.93 seconds. The silver went to the United States in 5:59.10. The bronze went to Australia in 6:01.65.

Germany was also tops in women's quadruple sculls with a time of 6:27.44. Ukraine was second in 6:30.36. Canada won the bronze in 6:30.38. AP

**Romania, Netherlands row to glory**  
The Netherlands placed first in men's eight rowing with a time of 5 minutes, 42.74 seconds. The silver went to Germany in 5:44.58. The bronze went to Russia in 5:45.77.

In the women's event, Romania was tops with a time of 6:19.73 seconds. Canada took silver in 6:24.05. The Belarus snatched the bronze in 6:24.44. AP

## Pakistan pushes for victory

LONDON (Reuter) - Pakistan squandered what could prove a crucial chance in its push for victory in the first Test by dropping England captain Mike Atherton in a tense last session at Lord's yesterday.

Atherton, who has the ability to save the face for England after Pakistan first innings 340 (Inzamam-ul-Haq 148, Saad Anwar 74, England first innings 285 (G.Thorpe 77, N.Knight 51, Salman Malik 46), Pakistan second innings (overnight 182-9) Saad Anwar c Russell b Mubally 88, Shabbir Khan c Russell b Cowie 53, Inzamam-ul-Haq c Russell b Cowie 53, Mashrafeez Khan not out 1, Waqar Ahmed not out 0, Extras (D-4 B-14 R-1) 19, Total (for five wickets declared) 352, Fall of wickets: 1-36 2-136 3-161 4-279 5-308, Extras (D-2 B-12 R-1) 15, Pakistan 204-4-50, Mubally 30.24-70-1, Hick 7-21-6, Salhan 16-4-39-0.

England second innings: N.Knight b Wamer 24, Mubally not out 24, A.Stewart not out 46, Extras (D-2 B-12 R-1) 15, Total (for one wicket) 74, Fall of wicket: 1-14, Bowling (to date): Waqar Ahmed 10-4-12-0, Wamer 7-1-25-1, Mashrafeez Khan 10-4-16-0, Pakistan 6-2-19-0, Hick 1-0-1-0.

## Hill wins German Grand Prix

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (AP) - Damon Hill won the German Grand Prix yesterday in a tight battle, with Jean Alesi coming in second.

Hill needed just 1 hour, 21 minutes, 43.417 seconds to take the 45 lap race that saw a thrilling battle between the winning Briton and Austrian Gerhard Berger, who was leading until his motor blew up with just three laps to go.

The 35-year-old Hill, who has never won before at Hockenheim, now pulls even with local favorite Michael Schumacher to win his 20th Grand Prix in the Formula One auto racing competition.

The win also gives Hill 10 more points in the world championship standing, putting him at 73, ahead of his teammate Jacques Villeneuve, who came in third and now has 52 points.

## Knicks sign veteran forward Buck Williams

THE New York Knicks' renovation project added another plank over the weekend with the signing of veteran free agent forward Buck Williams to a multi-year contract.

"Buck's a pro's pro. He is one of the classiest and most respected players in the NBA," general manager Ernie Grunfeld said in a release. "He will fit in very well with our club to add veteran depth to our front line. He's a very good rebounder and defender and has tremendous playoff experience, including two NBA Finals."

Terms of the deal were not announced. AP

## BASEBALL SCOREBOARD

**SATURDAY'S NL RESULTS:**

Cincinnati 7, New York 5
San Francisco 7, Atlanta 5
Colorado 10, Chicago 6
Philadelphia 2, Pittsburgh 1
St. Louis 6, Montreal 3
San Diego 7, Milwaukee 5
Los Angeles 6, Houston 5 (11)

**SATURDAY'S AL RESULTS:**

Baltimore 14, Cleveland 2
Texas 6, Chicago 4 (10)
New York 5, Kansas City 4
Toronto 6, Oakland 4
California 7, Milwaukee 0
Boston 9, Minnesota 5
Seattle 13, Detroit 7

The winners of the Jerusalem Post's Jewish Olympics Trivia Quiz will be held LIVE on Channel 1's IBA news on Friday, August 2 at 4:30 pm. The winners' names will be published in the August 4 edition of The Jerusalem Post.

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**DEADLINES offices:** Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 6 p.m. on Thursday. Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

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**General**

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8:00 Animals 8:30 Bark the Wonder Dog 9:00 Goya, Gal and Gal 9:15 Kalmaru 9:30 The Little Mermaid 10:00 Little Women

CHANNEL 2

13:00 Atlanta 96 16:58 A New Evening 17:32 Heartbreak High 18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Sports Magazine 19:00 News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:31 Atlanta 96 20:00 Maat News 20:45 Summer with Dan Margalit - new current-affairs live interview program 20:50 Atlanta 96 00:00 News 00:05 Atlanta 96 01:00 6:30 a.m.

CHANNEL 3

10:00 National Geographic nature films 11:00 News and News (pt) 11:30 Tick or Treat (pt) 12:00 Tush-Tush 13:00 A Matter of Time 13:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air (pt) 14:00 Tick-Tack 14:30 All Together Now 17:32 Super Duper 18:30 Mela 2 West 18:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Ravi Reshef 17:30 Hall the Trio 18:00 Santa Barbara 18:00 Baywatch 20:00 News 20:30 Mr. Bean - British comedy series 21:05 It's a Deal 21:40 Klezmer Festival - live broadcast from Saded 22:40 My Friend Robert - Israeli drama filmed in New York 23:45 Stages 00:00 News 00:05 Stages, continued 00:15 Trouble in Mind (1986) - Futuristic melodrama about an ex-convict hired to help with a bunch of kids who've just come to the big city...

JORDAN TV

15:00 Bonkers 15:30 Here's Lucy 15:55 The Games 16:00 News in French 19:10 Olympic Games 22:00 News in English 22:20 Olympic Games 6:30 Close-down

MIDDLE EAST TV

6:00 TV Shop 14:00 The 700 Club 14:30 My Friend Robert - Israeli drama filmed in New York 15:00 Olympic Games 22:00 News in English 22:20 Olympic Games 6:30 Close-down

CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons 8:05 Maya the Bee 8:35 Mot 9:00 Detective Hush 8:40 Avenger Penguins 10:15 The Children from Oz 10:30 VP Troopers 11:25 Family Ties 12:05 The Kids 12:30 The Kids 12:45 Animaniacs 13:00 Harry and the Hendersons 13:30 Hugo 14:00 Chiquitas 14:50 Looney Tunes 15:10 Comic Strip 16:00 The Kids 16:30 The Kids 16:45 VP Troopers (pt) 16:55 Family Ties (pt) 17:35 The Ren and Stimpy Show (pt) 18:30 Harry and the Hendersons (pt) 19:00 The Kids 19:30 The Kids 20:00 Married with Children 20:25 Rosalind 20:50 The Ren and Stimpy Show 21:05 Big Brother Jake 21:30 Drop the Dead Donkey

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6:45 Olympic Gymnastics (pt) 7:00 Good Morning Atlanta 7:30 Olympic Track and Field 8:00 Good Morning Atlanta (pt) 8:30 Good Morning Atlanta (pt) 9:00 Olympic Gymnastics (pt) 10:00 Olympic High Jumping 11:00 Olympic Track and Field 11:30 Olympic Track and Field 12:00 Olympic High Jumping 22:00 Olympic News Summary 22:30 Olympic Track and Field (pt) 23:00 Olympic Weight

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Advertisement for 'QUICK CROSSWORD' with a crossword puzzle grid and clues.



# Peres to propose canceling Labor primaries

MICHAL YUDELMAN

LABOR Party chairman Shimon Peres yesterday said that at the next party convention he plans to propose canceling the primary elections and setting up a body of 7,000 electors to choose Knesset candidates.

He also suggested to Labor executive's meeting forming several committees to critique the government's activities.

Peres encountered unexpected opposition among leading Labor figures, led by MKs Uzi Baram, Avraham Shohat, and Micha Goldman. His plan to form committees - and the committee heads he nominated - aroused strong objections among several executive members, who voted against it, protesting they are not a rubber stamp for his decisions. However, this proposal was accepted, though changes in the committee chairman might be made over the next two weeks.

The committees include a 36-member team in charge of state affairs, headed by Peres himself; an economic team, headed by Shohat; a municipal team, headed by MK Moshe Shahal; a team for religious affairs, headed by MK Yossi Beilin; and an information team, headed by MK Shlomo Ben-Ami.

Peres said after the meeting that he did not see the controversy over his proposal as a vote of no confidence in his leadership.

"I have tremendous support in the party, and there is no need for each and every person to support me. In the rank and file, I have a massive, undisputed backing," he said.

Peres did not rule out joining

a national unity government, or the possibility that he might run again for the party leadership, but he reiterated he would adhere to the party regulations requiring a leadership contest in 1997.

"The problem is not voting confidence in Peres or not, but organizing the opposition to the Likud in the most effective way," Baram said.

He stressed that there is no argument in Labor over Peres's leadership, but "I do have an argument with Peres's so-called supporters, like Beilin, who want Peres to remain party leader until a year before the next elections. Peres is the leader now, but in 1997 I want to see a new candidate as party chairman, [someone] who will lead the party in the elections of 2000."

Baram said he opposed the proposal to set up a committee of 36 members for state affairs, noting that he supports a much smaller, more flexible team.

"As for the chairman of the teams, I think we should hold consultations first and pick people who have already won the public's confidence," he said.

Peres initially had intended to form an 18-member committee for state affairs but, under the pressure of party MKs, agreed to expand it to encompass the entire faction, and Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg and Na'amat Chairwoman Ofra Friedland.

Peres also announced Insurance Union Bureau director-general Shaul Paternak's appointment as party director-general as of September.



Esther Pollard talks with sympathizers at the Hamashbir Lezarchan plaza in Jerusalem, where she began a hunger strike yesterday. She said she would continue it until her husband, Jonathan Pollard, who was convicted of spying for Israel, is freed from jail in the US. "He can't take it any more. He has been in isolation for seven years with empty promises from our government." (Efraim Kishon)

## Histadrut plans next step in fight against gov't policy

MICHAL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT Chairman MK Amir Peretz has called a meeting of the labor council secretaries this afternoon to formulate a plan against the government's anticipated economic decrees and privatization program.

The Histadrut has already authorized a labor dispute in most of the public sector and in government corporations as a prelude to a general strike, unless the government revokes the measures slashing child allowances, infringing on pension allocations, reducing health, education, social and other services.

The Histadrut's Parliament yesterday approved Labor's compromise proposal to resolve the coalition crisis with Ram. According to the agreement, Labor will head the Histadrut's trade union section and keep the organization and labor council section. In exchange it will agree to reducing the number of labor councils to 25 regional councils, a third of the present number.

The decision is arousing strong opposition among the labor council secretaries, who branded it as "daylight robbery" and threatened to fight against it.

Chairman of the labor council forum Pinni Kabbalo yesterday accused the Histadrut executive, and especially Labor's members, of "selling out the labor council secretaries, who are democratically elected public officials, for cozy executive positions. It is a base, backhanded move intended to wipe out Labor's representatives who were elected by their constituency to represent the lower-income

workers in their regions. They have forgotten that it is thanks to the labor council secretaries that they are sitting where they are today."

Kabbalo promised that this decision will not be carried out, even if the labor council secretaries have to go to court to prevent it.

"Even the great hero MK Haim Ramon, who decided two years ago on three pilot regional labor council, couldn't implement it. I am ashamed of the Labor executive members who suggested it. If they want to cut back expenses they should first reduce the Histadrut's redundant sections, many of which are headed by officials with bureaux, drivers and budgets and don't do anything for their living," he said.

The Histadrut's Likud faction chairman Ya'acov Shamai yesterday suggested his faction join the Histadrut coalition, maintaining that a wall-to-wall coalition is required in view of the workers' unfortunate situation today.

## MK Pinhasi petitions against attempt to lift his immunity

EVELYN GORDON

MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) petitioned the High Court of Justice over the weekend against Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair's decision to ask the Knesset again to lift his immunity.

Ben-Yair's predecessor, Yosef Harish, had asked the Knesset to lift Pinhasi's immunity in early 1993 so he could stand trial on charges of attempted fraud, conspiracy, falsifying corporate documents and falsifying his oath. All of the charges related to Shas's 1988 Knesset campaign, during which Pinhasi hired yeshiva students - who are not allowed to work because they receive draft exemptions - and then failed to report this to the tax authorities.

He then allegedly submitted a false set of books to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat. The Knesset agreed to lift Pinhasi's immunity in March 1993, but Pinhasi then peti-

tioned the High Court, which agreed that the original vote was flawed and ordered a re-vote. In the re-vote, in July 1993, the Knesset reversed itself and decided not to lift his immunity.

Now that a new Knesset has been elected - and partly due to pressure from the Movement for Quality Government in Israel - Ben-Yair decided to try again earlier this month. Pinhasi therefore petitioned the court, arguing that this is a case of double jeopardy, and therefore illegal.

The petition, by attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak, argued that once any Knesset has voted against lifting an MK's immunity, this is final. To permit an immunity request to be resubmitted just because the Knesset has changed, he said, would be like letting someone resubmit a civil suit to the same court which earlier rejected it just because a new judge had been appointed.

## Police order probe into Labor's claim of 100,000 forged election ballots

MICHAL YUDELMAN

POLICE ordered an investigation yesterday into the Labor Party's complaint of election fraud allegedly involving voting carried out with documents of people who did not take part in the elections.

Labor's Knesset faction chairman Ra'an Cohen, who lodged the complaint, presented the police with findings of an examination of 7 percent of the ballot boxes, which revealed 800 votes registered in the names of citizens who were abroad on Election Day or did not vote for another reason. Cohen said the sample indicates that altogether some 100,000 votes were forged.

Cohen said he hired a private investigator who, among other things, found systematic forgeries in the haredi section. "There was a system carried out among Natorei Karta. We received a list of more than 2,000 names and identity card numbers of people who did not come to vote, but are registered as though they did, including two who are deceased."

Cohen said the Labor Party is not challenging the election results, but demanding that all the forgers be brought to trial.

## Sarid asks attorney-general not to approve Yatom appointment

MICHAL YUDELMAN

MERETZ leader Yossi Sarid yesterday requested that Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair not approve the appointment of Ehud Yatom to the Oil Refineries' board of directors, Yatom last week admitted murdering the two terrorists in the 1984 Bus 300 hijacking and his part in the conspiracy to cover up the affair.

Sarid said the appointment was out of the question "in view of the horrifying revelation of murdering two people who had been captured, even if they were terrorists, long after the hijacking was over. To murder two people by a patently illegal order, to smash their skulls with a large stone, who can accept such a thing? This man and this act are the rotten fruit of a security-oriented approach devoid of values, which disgraces the state's battle for its defense and endangers Israelis who fall captive to murderous extremist elements in the region."

He said that the fact Yatom was pardoned by then president Chaim Herzog, together with all the GSS people involved in the affair, does not mean he should now be rewarded.

"The High Court of Justice has already ruled [in the case of Yossi Ginosar, who was also involved] that what counts is not the conviction, but the crime, when it comes to a public appointment. In this case, there is no doubt that the crime was committed and the disgrace is there, and the appointment is against the accepted norms and basic value of a decent society. Yatom is not worthy of serving as a director for the state."

*Liat Collins adds:* MK Azmi Bshara (Hadash) is asking Yatom be brought to trial and the files opened for public scrutiny.

"The problem isn't having filed a false report, but cold-blooded murder," Bshara said.

"One can't know for sure how many other cases there have been of youngsters 'dying on the way to hospital' or 'being killed in action.'"

Bshara called for all those involved to be brought to trial. "It's incredible that in a country which considers itself civilized, is proud of being 'the only democracy in the region,' and demands its neighbors respect human rights, a murderer like Yatom can continue to work in the civil service and can even be a candidate for a post of school principal," he said.

Meanwhile, the family of the two brothers murdered by Yatom said it would seek compensation for their deaths.

Safot Abu-Jamya said he also wanted Israel to punish Yatom. "We are looking forward to have the murderers punished and for compensation for the harm and the damage which occurred to the family as a result of the crime," he told Reuters.

## Haifa court won't release suspect in London blasts

News agencies

THE Haifa District Court yesterday rejected a petition to release a woman suspected of involvement in two 1994 bombings against Jewish targets in London. However, the court did grant her lawyers' request that they be allowed to meet with her.

Attorneys for the 30-year-old woman, who was born in Acre, told the Haifa District Court, which has banned publication of the suspect's name, that she had no connection to the bombings and should be released immediately.

Police arrested the woman on July 22, when she arrived here to visit her family, and the Acre Magistrates' Court last week ordered her held for questioning until August 3. Security sources have said the GSS is handling the woman's interrogation.

Avigdor Feldman, the suspect's lawyer, requested that the court allow him to meet with his client, saying the police prohibition of this is a denial of her basic rights. The court ruled that she will be permitted to meet with her lawyers for 15 minutes in the presence of a police representative.

Islamic militants are suspected of planting the carbomb that exploded outside the Israeli embassy in London in July 1994, wounding 14 people. Twelve hours later a second carbomb went off outside the North London offices of a Jewish fundraising organization, wounding five people.

British newspapers said at the time that a Palestinian widow seeking revenge over the killing of her husband and son planted at least one of the bombs.

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Samarra 22-34  
Dead Sea 30-40  
Golan 21-33

Forecast: Hot, clear to partly cloudy.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

City	Low	High	Cloud
Berlin	13	22	cloudy
Buenos Aires	22	26	cloudy
Chicago	18	26	rain
London	10	16	cloudy
Frankfurt	18	26	clear
Geneva	13	22	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	31	rain
Los Angeles	17	24	cloudy
Los Angeles	22	31	clear

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In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine spades, seven of hearts, seven of diamonds, and king of clubs.

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